

UT CAEE

SPRING 2007

civil, architectural & environmental engineering newsletter

www.caee.utexas.edu



*Sakhalin-1 Consortium,
Sakhalin Island, Russia*

2006 Academy of Distinguished Alumni Inductee, Rex Tillerson, was accountable for ExxonMobil's holdings in Russia and the Caspian Sea before becoming CEO of the corporation.



Alamodome, San Antonio, Texas

Jesse Covarrubias, 2006 Academy of Distinguished Alumni Inductee, began his own award-winning structural engineering firm, Structural Engineering Associates, (SEA) in 1976.



*WTP Sedimentation Basins,
Durango, Colorado*

Sarah Clark, 2006 Academy of Distinguished Alumni Inductee, is an expert and national spokesperson on safe drinking water regulations and water treatment in the U.S.



Percy Pennybacker Bridge, Austin, Texas

Robert Reed, 2006 Academy of Distinguished Alumni Inductee, was instrumental in the design of many steel highway and road structures throughout the state of Texas.

CAEE Alumni

The Many Avenues of Giving Back: A letter from Chair Gerald Speitel



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

A high point of my involvement with this department is witnessing the many ways in which people contribute to future excellence. In this edition of UT CAEE, we highlight the new members of the Academy of Distinguished Alumni, who are recognized for their professional achievements and outstanding leadership in their chosen fields. They also serve as role models for our students as they are reminders of the possibilities that await them after graduation.

We are also pleased to detail some recent efforts and accomplishments of our students and faculty. Over Labor Day weekend, the ASCE Student Chapter took a trip to New Orleans, where they participated in clean-up and rebuilding efforts. For many of the students, witnessing the Hurricane Katrina destruction first-hand affirmed the importance of their chosen profession.

In the faculty arena, the recent endeavors of Environmental Engineering Professors Richard Corsi and David Maidment are featured. Both professors are currently involved in the process of creating innovative programs and partnerships with other universities. We also introduce two new faculty members from our Construction Engineering and Project Management program.

The achievements of students, alumni and faculty are a great source of pride to the department. I encourage you to add to that by nominating alumni for our 2007 Academy of Distinguished Alumni class or for the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. We welcome this New Year and the many opportunities it brings us to move forward.

Gerald E. Speitel, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.

John J. McKetta Professor in Engineering and Chairman



The University of Texas at Austin

Call for Award Nominations

Alumni are strongly encouraged to nominate a deserving colleague who graduated from the UT CAEE Department for these annual awards. Please download a nomination form on our website (more information below) or request one from alumni coordinator, Laura Klopfenstein, at (512) 471-1279 or klopfenstein@mail.utexas.edu. Criteria and deadlines for the awards are as follows:

CAEE Outstanding Young Alumnus (Mar. 1, 2007 deadline)

Established in 2003, the Outstanding Young Alumnus recognizes an alumnus of the Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering Department under the age of 40 who has distinguished him or herself with outstanding service and contributions to the engineering profession. The nominee must have received a B.S., M.S. or Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin CAEE Department and must be 39 years of age or younger on March 1, 2007. To view previous award recipients or to download a nomination form, please visit: www.ce.utexas.edu/outstanding.cfm

Academy of Distinguished Alumni (Mar. 1, 2007 deadline)

The Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni was established in 2003 to recognize the professional achievements and contributions of graduates of this department, and to serve as leaders and role models among alumni and current students. Each Active Member holds a B.S., M.S. or Ph.D. from UT CAEE and is outstanding in their field, a leader in community affairs and worthy of emulation. To view current Academy of Distinguished Alumni members or to download a nomination form, please visit: www.ce.utexas.edu/distAlumni.cfm

We are fortunate to have so many graduates who contribute to their communities in diverse ways. We look forward to honoring a new group of outstanding alumni and appreciate your help in nominating people who have enriched the profession.

Profiles: New Faculty Members

Cindy L. Menches

Assistant Professor, Construction Engineering Project Management, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2006

Dr. Cindy Menches joins the faculty from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she recently completed her Ph.D. She brings the knowledge and experience of a professional practitioner as she has been a Construction Project Manager and Design Build-Project Manager.

The focal point of her research is the efficiency of the construction process and the impact of effective construction planning on performance. She is currently developing efficiency improvement strategies and adapting standard construction processes to emergency response situations. The goal of her research is to define and standardize the roles and responsibilities of engineers and contractors in the emergency response process. To do this, she will investigate the challenges involved in making accurate and prompt decisions in a dynamic setting under hazardous working conditions. It is her goal to strengthen the foundation of the construction process and to ensure that her students enter the workforce "with the proper skills and ability to think critically."



John E. Taylor

Assistant Professor, Construction Engineering Project Management, Ph.D., Stanford University, Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2006

Dr. John Taylor won a Fulbright Scholarship to Switzerland where he worked at the United Nations and studied at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. He later became Assistant Professor of Technology and Innovation Management at the University of Lausanne Business School in Switzerland.

He researches change processes in global project networks; focusing on innovations in computer-aided design, supply chain integration, pre-fabricated wall systems and elevator systems. Taylor has identified critical issues relating to project network structure which help enable implementation and widespread use of technological, organizational and work process innovations. He uses both field research and computational simulation modeling to extend innovation theories and his findings are used by industry to develop strategies for improving innovation and organizational change outcomes. He is eager to prepare his students for the challenges of a multidisciplinary industry.

Emerging Frontier: Improving Indoor Environments

Many people are unaware of the poor indoor environmental quality of their surroundings. After seeing the need to further study this underdeveloped area of research, several CAEE faculty helped facilitate a new multidisciplinary graduate program that has received a \$2.9M grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The five-year grant is intended to prepare the next generation of leaders to expand the indoor environmental air quality field in the U.S. The Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program is called "Indoor Environmental Science and Engineering - An Emerging Frontier" and will be led by Environmental Engineering

Professor Richard Corsi. A "test house" at J.J. Pickle Research Campus will be built under the guidance of grant co-leader Jeffrey Siegel, Assistant Professor of Architectural Engineering.



IGERT trainees currently have access to substantial laboratory space and state-of-the-art instrumentation. The test house will be complete by Summer 2007.



Richard Corsi and doctoral student Chi Hoang place specimen in test chamber.

photo: Patrick Cunningham

The UTest house will be a focal point of the IGERT program and will allow for experiments in real indoor environments.

One of many specific goals of the program is to facilitate interdisciplinary interactions amongst students and faculty from environmental science and engineering disciplines. Professor Corsi adds, "As Americans we spend an average of 18 hours indoors for every hour we spend outdoors, yet we have done so little to understand and improve the quality of building environments. It is exciting to me that UT will now be an academic leader in this emerging and important field."

Alumni Banquet: Celebrating CAEE Together



Jesse (BSCE '64) and Margie Covarrubias



Carter Reed, grandson of Robert Reed (BSCE '46)



Current student Whitney Lawrence and Ronald Bynes (BSCE '56)



Environmental and Water Resources Professor Joe Malina, Jr. and H. Ken Rigsbee (BSArE '67)

In our continuing effort to recognize our outstanding alumni and provide opportunities to strengthen our alumni network, the CAEE Department held the annual Alumni Banquet and Academy of Distinguished Alumni Induction Ceremony on October 13, 2006.

Over 140 alumni, faculty, staff and students spent a fall evening at the Campus Club catching up with one another and honoring the success of our graduates. All Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering graduates were invited back to campus to reunite with former classmates and faculty during this evening.

The event began with a cocktail reception and social hour. People with various ties to the department swapped stories, some connecting for the first time, while others got reacquainted with familiar faces. Alumni traveled from as far as Colorado and as near as West Austin to celebrate their experiences at the University of Texas at Austin and to enhance their relationship with the department.

In conjunction with the Alumni Banquet, the Academy of Distinguished Alumni, established in 2003 to mark the Department's Centennial Celebration, inducted eight outstanding alumni. Dr. Jack Breen (Ph.D. '62), Chair of the Membership Committee for the Academy, Charles Machemehl (BSCE '57 and MSCE '64), Academy President for 2005-2006, and CAEE Department Chair, Gerald Speitel Jr., officially congratulated each new member as he/she accepted a certificate.

The new inductees all received a bachelor's, master's and/or a doctoral degree from the department and were invited to join the Academy of Distinguished Alumni as a result of their "distinguished professional careers and lifelong dedication to the support and advancement of engineering education."

Each year the Academy receives high caliber nominations for membership and is particularly pleased to gain new members each year that represent success in all areas and degree levels offered by the department. The Academy of Distinguished Alumni feels it is important that students are aware of the all of the possibilities that await them after they graduate and are able to see examples of notable alumni from a variety of technical areas.

The CAEE Department is enthusiastic about providing an avenue for celebration and reunion. Our alumni have many accomplishments to be proud of as well as many opportunities for future excellence. We hope to see many alumni return for next year's event or participate for the first time.

To read more about the Academy of Distinguished Alumni Members, please visit: <http://www.ce.utexas.edu/distAlumni.cfm>



Larry Olson (BSCE '78, MSCE '83)



Gerald Speitel Jr., John Richardson (BSCE '74, MSCE '75) and Charles Machemehl (BSCE '57, MSCE '64)



Students Sarah Hirsch and Ian Hlavacek



2006 Academy Inductees (L-R): John Reed (representing Bob Reed), Sarah Clark, Jesse Covarrubias, Bobby Price, Rex Tillerson, John Richardson, Rudy Bonaparte and Larry Olson

Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni **2006 Inductees**

Rudolph Bonaparte

Rudy Bonaparte was named College of Engineering Outstanding Graduate in 1977, the year he graduated from UT. For the past 20 years, he has been at GeoSyntec Consultants, Inc. and has served as President and CEO for more than a decade. Under Dr. Bonaparte's leadership, the firm has grown to more than 600 personnel practicing in the environmental, geotechnical, water resources, and structural engineering disciplines. In the workplace, he is a mentor, challenging and encouraging young engineers to provide exceptional technical services.



Rudolph Bonaparte

Sarah C. Clark

After Sarah Clark graduated with a BSCE, she was the first female engineer to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at West Point, New York. Years after completing her M.S. in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering, she has become a nationally recognized expert on safe drinking water regulations and water treatment in the U.S. Currently, she is Senior Project Manager at HDR Engineering, Inc., designing efficient, cost-effective water treatment facilities and developing management strategies and regulatory compliance programs.



Sarah C. Clark

Jesse S. Covarrubias

As owner and manager of Structural Engineering Associates, Inc. (SEA), Jesse Covarrubias has led his firm to success over the past 30 years. SEA has become one of the largest and most prominent structural engineering firms in San Antonio and is the leading international bridge design firm in Texas. The firm has won many prestigious awards for design and use of precast and prestressed concrete in buildings, bridges and highway structures. In addition, Mr. Covarrubias holds three patents for innovative and unique structures.



Jesse S. Covarrubias

Larry D. Olson

Shortly after completing his MSCE, Larry Olson started Olson Engineering, Inc., a firm that provides nondestructive testing and evaluation of structures and infrastructure. The firm's staff includes engineers with backgrounds in structural, geotechnical, geophysical, pavement, materials, electrical and mechanical engineering. Larry also saw the need for user-friendly equipment and created Olson Instruments, which has sold its ultrasonic, sonic, seismic and structural health monitoring instruments in over 40 countries around the world.



Larry D. Olson



Bobby E. Price

Bobby E. Price

Bobby Price has demonstrated award-winning excellence in the practice and teaching of civil engineering for many years. During his 32-year tenure as a professor at Louisiana Tech, he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in hydraulics and water resources. Bobby's dedication to technical and professional efforts continued when he served as President of the National Society of Professional Engineers in 2004-2005. He continues to serve on many commissions in Louisiana.



Robert L. Reed

Robert L. Reed

Bob Reed's 43-year career with the Texas Highway Department (now TxDOT) began after he served in the U.S. Navy for two years. At TxDOT, he was Engineer of Bridge Design, overseeing all design and plan preparation at the Austin headquarters. His influence on bridge design spanned many years and impacted a period of unprecedented growth in the Texas interstate highway system. He contributed many technical ideas that made useful research subjects for CAEE faculty.



John H. Richardson

John H. Richardson

As Senior Vice President at architecture and engineering firm, HKS, Inc., John Richardson is responsible for its national and international governmental and institutional buildings practice. By combining the functionality of engineering with the aesthetics of architecture, he has produced award-winning projects. In 2006, the firm celebrated the planning, design, and construction of over \$1 billion of those facilities including the U.S. Census Bureau Headquarters in Suitland, Maryland.



Rex W. Tillerson

Rex W. Tillerson

After completing his degree, Rex Tillerson joined Exxon Company, U.S.A. as a Production Engineer. Over the next several years, he held positions of increasing engineering and management responsibility throughout the company. As President of Exxon Neftgas Limited, he was accountable for Exxon's holdings in Russia, the Caspian Sea and the Sakhalin I Consortium operations. In January 2006, he assumed his current position as Chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil.

Recent Faculty Achievements



Chandra Bhat, Transportation Engineering Professor, was invited to attend the National Academy of Engineering's 2006 U.S. Frontiers of Engineering Symposium.



Chandra Bhat

He was among 105 engineers chosen to participate in the symposium for accomplished young engineers.

Kevin Folliard received recognition for his research project that led to the development of ConcreteWorks, a suite of Windows-based concrete technology programs that are intended to benefit inspectors, contractors, pre-casters, suppliers and researchers.



Kevin Folliard

The project was named one of six Top Research Innovations and Findings for 2005 by TxDOT.



Maria Juenger

Maria Juenger was selected as "chair-elect" of the Cements Division of the American Ceramic Society. She was also appointed secretary of Committee 236: Materials Science of Concrete for the American Concrete Institute (ACI).

Spyros Kinnas was invited to join the Editorial Committee of the Journal of Ship Research, the leading journal in the field, under the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME).



Spyros Kinnas

Kara Kockelman has been designated as Chair of the Transportation Research Board's Committee on Transportation Survey Methods, which is a three-year term beginning in April 2007. Her graduate students are currently conducting a research study to explore public opinion of carsharing, a new strategy for reducing traffic congestion and emissions in Austin.



Kara Kockelman



Des Lawler

Desmond Lawler, Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Professor, was honored as a University of North Carolina (UNC) Distinguished Graduate Alumni. He received his master's degree in 1975 and Ph.D. in 1980 from the UNC Environmental Sciences and Engineering program.

Daene McKinney has been named by the California Bay-Delta Authority to its Independent Science Board. The board serves as an advisory group, providing politically-balanced and scientifically sound information for policy decisions regarding the deltas around San Francisco.



Daene McKinney

Michael Walton was elected chairman of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) at the organization's annual meeting. Walton has held a variety of ARTBA leadership positions and helped develop the association's policy positions on federal transportation development issues.



Colin Powell shakes hands with Mike Walton at the ARTBA meeting.

Jorge Zornberg was elected vice president of the International Geosynthetic Society for the term 2006-2010. IGS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of geosynthetics and associated technologies.



Jorge Zornberg

Eye-Opening Experience: ASCE Student Chapter Visits New Orleans

In September, students embarked on a journey to New Orleans to clean up flooded houses and build new homes. A group of about 50 people, which included the UT student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and several members of the Austin Branch volunteered their time and skills to help the city move forward. Funded by the ASCE Austin Branch, the trip was not only a revealing experience but also an unforgettable opportunity for learning.



photo: Kelly G. Morelli

photos: Lizan Gilbert



Engineering students and local professionals traveled to St. Bernard's Parish on the east side of New Orleans, where they stayed at "Camp Hope", a Habitat for Humanity base camp. During the first day, the group spent the day painting, roofing and installing insulation in the Upper Ninth Ward on a project called the "Musician's Village".

The project will result in homes for 81 displaced musicians.

Following the work day, participants

visited two levee failures of the floodwall along the London Avenue Canal with CAEE Geotechnical Engineering Professor, Dr. Robert Gilbert, and were engaged in a detailed and technical civil engineering lesson. Gilbert, also a member of the ASCE External Review Panel (ERP), is responsible for assessing performance reliability and risk management for this advisory group. The ERP was convened in October 2005 to conduct independent review of the Interagency Performance Evaluation



photo: Rose Marie Klee

Taskforce (IPET) investigation of the New Orleans hurricane protection system failures.

During the second day of work, the group split into teams to remove debris and household contents and strip out drywall and insulation in three homes. The end result was dramatic, as nothing but the shell of a home and a mound of debris remained.

Seeing the destruction up close had a powerful impact on the students. "The trip opened our eyes to what was really going on down there, how much devastation there was, and how much more needs to be done. I realized how important our profession will be in the process of making the area safe for the long term and preserving the culture and lives of the people of New Orleans," said Mary Nodine, CAEE grad student and trip participant.



photo: Juan Pedro/Patrick McNamara

photo: Kelly G. Morelli

Students and ASCE Austin Branch members spent a day painting, roofing and installing insulation at Musician's Village. The project is a brain-child of Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis, with the end goal of creating 81 homes for displaced musicians.

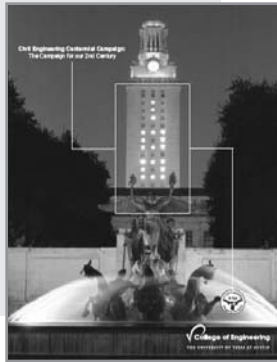


photo: Rose Marie Klee

While the scale of work that is left to do in the recovery process may seem daunting, this trip gave students and practicing engineers an opportunity to turn misfortune into a challenge to improve the future.

For more information, please visit: www.austinasce.org/neworleans.htm

CAEE Centennial Campaign Ignites New Endowment Activity



When the CAEE \$5M Centennial Campaign launched in 2003, one of the main initiatives was to secure new funding in order to ensure CAEE's future as one of the top-ranked programs in the nation. Thanks to the generosity of nearly 1,200 alumni, we have raised in cash, pledges and planned gifts, a total of \$3,962,893 (as of January 10, 2007). A great surprise however, has been the establishment of more than 20 new endowments for the department, guaranteeing a secure source of future funding.

The CAEE Department gratefully acknowledges the gifts donated by our alumni and friends to establish endowed scholarships and fellowships. These endowments assist the department in recognizing students' merit, leadership and personal contributions in their academic field.

Endowment 101

An endowment is a fund, much like a savings account, in which the principal is never spent. Distributions are made annually from a percentage (currently 4.75%) of the interest earned on the principal. Endowments have long term value to the CAEE Department, as we rely on their distributions to make scholarship offers, fund programmatic initiatives and support faculty research year after year. An endowment requires a minimum donation of \$25,000 and may be funded over a period of five years.

New CAEE Endowments

Since fall 2003, 21 new endowments have been established for the benefit of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, representing a market value of \$1,240,000. Listed alphabetically by category, they include:

Endowed Excellence Funds

- Dr. Carl E. Adams, Jr. Endowed Excellence Fund for EWRE
- Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering Centennial Endowment
- The EWRE Endowed Excellence Fund
- Friends of Alec Civil Engineering Fund
- W. Ronald Hudson Endowed Excellence Fund in Civil Engineering
- Charles E. Kolodzey Civil Engineering Centennial Endowment
- Roy Olson Professional Endowed Excellence Fund in Civil Engineering
- Lymon and Eva Lee Reese Endowed Excellence Fund
- Charles A. and Linda E. Sorber Excellence Endowment in Environmental and Water Resources



Eugene Dawson (BSCE '57) and his EPS student

In progress:

Transportation Engineering Endowed Excellence Fund

Endowed Scholarships

- Academy of Distinguished Alumni Endowed Scholarship in Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering
- Dr. Carl Erving Adams, Jr. Endowed Presidential Scholarship
- Eugene H. and Mary Duane Dawson Endowed Presidential Scholarship
- Faulkner Brothers Endowed Scholarship in Civil Engineering
- Lawrence A. Fuess Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Architectural Engineering
- Harris Berry Grubbs Endowed Scholarship in Civil Engineering
- Jones & Carter, Inc. Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Civil Engineering
- William H. Luedecke Endowed Undergraduate Scholarship
- Bill and Mary Etta Moreau Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Civil Engineering
- Wiethorn Family Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Architectural Engineering



Berry Grubbs (MSCE '65) and W. Ronald Hudson (Ph.D. '65)



Charles Kolodzey (MSCE '46) Dean Ben Streetman and Kolodzey EPS student, Thomas Gerrity (BSCE '06)

Professorships

Hudson Matlock Professorial Endowed Excellence Fund in Civil Engineering



Majane and Jim Wiethorn (BSArE '73, MSArE '75)



Lymon Reese (BSCE '49, MSCE '50)

For more information on making a gift to the **CAEE Centennial Campaign**, please contact Kelsey Evans at 512-471-6151, kelsey.evans@mail.utexas.edu. To make a gift online, please visit <http://www.engr.utexas.edu/support>

Advancing Hydrologic Science:

CAEE Professor David Maidment Initiates Progress



In an effort to improve the study of hydrologic science, CAEE

Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Professor, David Maidment, has

taken an active role in a nationwide consortium. The Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science (CUAHSI) represents more than one hundred universities and aims to advance hydrologic science and education in the United States. As Principal Investigator of the CUAHSI Hydrologic Information System (HIS), Maidment has been helping to develop the organization's strategies for data integration over the past two years.

While the relationship between water and the physical environment is of utmost importance on a global level, data sharing in this area is lacking. Retrieval of water resources information is often complicated and is not accessible from a single source. Similarly, it can be problematic for individual scientists to publish their data in a manner in which it effectively reaches other scientists on a large scale.

The goal of CUAHSI (HIS) is to create a means for systematic acquisition and publication of data. The first of its kind, the Hydrologic Information System is a geographically distributed network of resources that will function as a connected whole. According to Maidment this will "reduce the amount of time spent gathering information and allow for more analysis and study." The system will provide data discovery, data delivery, data publication and data curation.

The HIS project team, which has been working together since April 2004, includes academic hydrologists from UT- Austin, Duke, Drexel and Utah State University. The team also collaborates with its Technology Partner, the San Diego Super Computer Center.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has recently renewed the funding for core operations of this project with a sizeable grant. Under Maidment's leadership, the University of Texas CAEE Department will receive \$4.7M over a five year period for research and development of the information system. It will later be distributed to other teams within the CUAHSI community once support services are established. With this

award, the organization will be able to advance from the planning stage to the initial stages of operating the information system.

The grant is also funding prototyping activities for hydrologic observatories and the Hydrologic Synthesis Facility. At this time, eleven WATERS Network Test Bed projects throughout the country are serving as "beta-testing" groups. These groups are determining how useful and effective the HIS software is and will recommend changes before its final release.

Test bed sites represent a range of environmental conditions



WATERS Test Beds serve as beta-testers for HIS software.

from the high Sierra Nevada to urban Baltimore, which allows for broader testing of observatory design and operation. An example of one of the WATERS Network Test Bed projects is the Corpus Christi Bay system. Corpus Christi Bay is an urban estuary separated from the gulf by a barrier island and is home to the nation's seventh largest port as well as numerous petrochemical facilities. This system illustrates the complexity of water issues that can exist at a particular location as well as the necessity of synthesizing information.

Very few hydrologists would deny that piecemeal, small-scale research efforts are simply not adequate to ensure safe water. Maidment agrees that "assemblage of data will allow us to interpret and better understand a location's natural behavior and how environmental practices affect it."

Thanks to the vision of Maidment and the HIS project team, a collective effort to advance hydrologic science is no longer unimaginable. They anticipate that having access to a multi-faceted resource will encourage great progress in the field.

For more information on CUAHSI (HIS), please visit: www.cuahsi.org

Donor Profile:

H. Ken Rigsbee, BSARE '67, Donates Time and Resources

A proud fourth-generation Austinite, Ken Rigsbee is an alumnus who continues to give back to the department and the engineering profession. For many years, he has shown his gratitude for the positive experiences he had as a CAEE student.

Initially studying to become an architect, Rigsbee discovered more of an aptitude for architectural engineering and soon declared that as his major. That his father was a UT Civil Engineer was also a factor in his decision.

As an architectural engineering student in the 1960's, he and several other students frequently gathered to study and spent many hours discussing "world affairs." Rigsbee learned that "if I always tried to do a little bit more than was asked of me, success would magically show up. This is the oft-mentioned 'extra mile' scenario, and it actually works." He also recalls the privilege of learning from challenging professors who collectively made UT one of the best engineering programs in the country.

Upon earning his B.S. degree in 1966, he began his 36-year career with Phillips Petroleum Company as a junior design engineer in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Throughout his career, he spent time working in Raleigh, North Carolina, and in Kenai, Alaska as a construction engineer where he oversaw nearly 30 projects around the plant and state. He later moved back to Bartlesville and served as chapter President of the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE); president and founder of the Oklahoma Engineering and Technology Guidance Council; and was twice awarded Young Engineer of the Year by the OSPE Bartlesville Chapter.

In 1988, Rigsbee returned to Austin to look after Phillips' government relations activities in Texas and Louisiana. He later

assumed the responsibility for several other southern states and then retired in 2002 when the company merged with Conoco.

Rigsbee has donated both time and treasure to the department, serving as a member of the Visiting Committee between 1987-1990 and again on the Centennial Committee in 2003. He and his wife Sharon have included a bequest to the department in their estate plans which will become a gift in the name of his father, Herbert K. Rigsbee, BSCE '40. Ken was also recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of the Civil Engineering Department in 2003.

Rigsbee enjoys being able to give back to UT because of the huge impact it made on his career as well as that of his father. He says, "I enjoyed being associated with a program that was made better by the efforts of those who succeeded me. When looking back at what UT has done for me and my career, I think that it's only fair to partially repay the school through contributions one may be able to make." He encourages current students who wish to be good alumni to "study hard, work hard, love and support your family, and then, try to do something to benefit others."

Recently, it was announced that Rigsbee was elected as the National Society of Professional Engineer's (NSPE) President for 2008-2009. He is one of four UT CAEE alumni who have been elected President of this national professional organization. J. Neils Thompson, Joe Paul Jones and Bobby E. Price are former NSPE Presidents and UT alumni.

Rigsbee's various ways of enriching the department and professional engineering organizations exemplify how an alumnus can give back to the university that spurred a lifelong pursuit of excellence.



Rigsbee as a UT student



H. Ken Rigsbee, BSARE '67

Recognition: Student Accolades

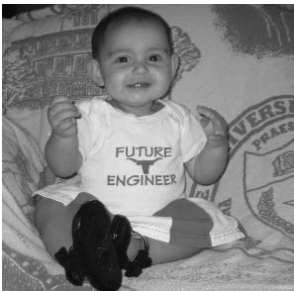
•**Chi Phuong Hoang**, Environmental Engineering graduate student, won the 2006 Ken Dillon Fellowship for Indoor Environmental Quality Design from the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute. The annual award is given to students interested in the relationship between indoor air quality and public health in building design and construction. She will receive \$3,500 for her research.

•**Nathan Johnson**, graduate student in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering, was awarded a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Fellowship. He was one of 112 students chosen from more than 1,300 applicants. Johnson's research seeks to understand chemical and biological processes that affect mercury levels in aquatic sediments.

•**Herman "Gary" Lehman** is a recipient of the 2007 College of Engineering Student Leadership Award. Each year, six awards are presented to students who hold leadership positions within a College of Engineering organization. The recipients have positively affected the student community and pushed others to excel. Lehman is President of the UT ASCE-Student Chapter.

Alumni Updates

CAEE alumni go on to varied professions and interesting careers. 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.caee.utexas.edu/alumni



Diana Estavillo, daughter of Leticia (Sosa) Estavillo, BSCE '90, in her UT "Future Engineer" t-shirt.

To receive a **free t-shirt** for your future engineer, send us a photo and all the details--baby's name, birth date, etc. We'll include it in the CAEE Newsletter AND mail you a t-shirt compliments of the College's Friends of Alec Annual Giving Program.

60's

Ralph K. Banks (BSCE '63) retired from TxDOT in 2003, having served for over 40 years in the areas of bridge maintenance, construction and management. Now he is teaching an extension course for the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). He and his wife, Judy, live in Austin and enjoy the frequent company of their three children (all UT grads) and four grandchildren.

James L. Barnard (MSEHE '69) has been elected as this year's Honorary Board Certified Environmental Engineer by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He is the global technology and practice leader for advanced biological treatment at B&V Water, the water business of Black & Veatch.

70's

Will C. Jones IV, P.E. J.D. (BSCE '78) lives in Austin with his wife, Elizabeth Ames Jones, who was recently elected a full term on the Texas Railroad Commission.

80's

Alex Gonzales (BSARE '88) recently joined H.R. Gray, as Project Manager. H.R. Gray is a construction company and consulting firm that offers pre-construction planning and construction management services for the public sector.

Jose I. Villareal (BSARE '81) served in Iraq from December 2004 to December 2005 in support of the Air Force Center for Engineering Excellence (AFCEE) providing technical assistance in the rebuilding of Iraqi Military infrastructure.

90's

Sandra Akmansoy (BSCE '96, MSCE '97) works for Arup, an international engineering consultancy group and is responsible for business development in the EMEA region. The family, who lives in Madrid, Spain, welcomed their daughter Dalyan in September 2006.



Dalyan Akmansoy, born in 2006.

Janice (Ruhl) Carroll (MSEE '94) gave birth to Royal James Carroll, IV on July 6th, 2006 in Fairfax, Virginia. "Jay" weighed 9 lbs., 12 oz. and was 22 inches long.

Caleb Duncan (BSARE '97) and his wife, Jeri, welcomed their first child, Elliot Edward Duncan in July 2006. Caleb is an Associate at L.A. Fuess Partners, Inc. in Dallas, Texas.



Elliot Edward Duncan, born July 2006.

Reagan Herman (MSCE '95, Ph.D. 2001) was the 2006 recipient of the Robert J. Dexter Memorial Lecture by the American Iron and Steel Institute's (AISI) Bridge Task Force. The Memorial Lecture provides an opportunity for the recipient to present his/her steel bridge activities at the semiannual AISI meeting.

photo: Dan Snyder



Reagan Herman, (center) Alex Wilson, chairman of AISI's Bridge Task Force (left) and Ed Wasserman, director of structures for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Joshua B. Malkin, P.E. (BSCE '96) was recently promoted to Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps and lives in Yokosuka, Japan.

Jeff Shindler (BSCE '97) and his wife Miranda, welcomed Kinley Miranda Shindler, born in October, 2006. She is the great-granddaughter of Stewart Fischer (BSCE '48).

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Carlos Patino (Ph.D. 2005), post doctoral fellow at University of Texas Center for Research in Water Resources, received a 2006 Ph.D. Dissertation Award from The Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR).

Travis Roby (BSCE 2005), Project Engineer at DPR Construction, married Angie Gray in January 2006 and is proud to be raising 15 month old son, Walker Roby.

Keep sending us your updates!!



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