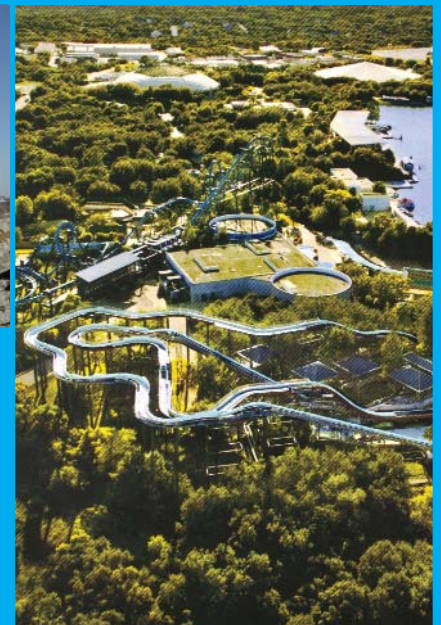


# UT CAEE

WINTER 2008

civil, architectural & environmental engineering newsletter

[www.cae.utexas.edu](http://www.cae.utexas.edu)



*2007 Academy of Distinguished Alumni Inductees demonstrate diverse talent and career paths*



*(See back page for captions)*



# Meeting Our Goals

## Centennial Campaign Overview: A letter from Chair Gerald Speitel



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

It's hard to believe that four years have gone by since the launch of the Centennial Campaign. From the beginning, I have seen an impressive level of commitment to ensure a successful future for the Department. Alumni, corporations, faculty and staff have all shown how important the continued excellence of CAEE is to them. Over 1,000 individuals and companies contributed to the Centennial Campaign and as a result, we have met our campaign goal of \$5 million.

Since 2003, CAEE has been able to establish many new endowments, including 12 excellence funds, 11 undergraduate scholarships, 2 graduate fellowships and one professorship. In particular, a Centennial Endowment for the Department will provide important discretionary funds for faculty recruitment and new initiatives. We have also been able to honor distinguished and longtime professors, like Hudson Matlock, Lymon Reese, Ron Hudson and Jack Breen. And programs within the department, EWRE, Transportation Engineering, Structural, Geotechnical and CEPM are now more robust with the establishment of excellence funds, allowing us to provide our students with the best possible education. Thank you to all of those listed on pages 5-10 - you have helped transform lives in a very real way.

In this newsletter, we also present profiles of our newest members of the Academy of Distinguished Alumni, who exemplify the excellence that the Centennial Campaign was designed to sustain. I encourage you to participate in our alumni recognition program by nominating alumni for our 2008 Academy of Distinguished Alumni class or for the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

We look forward to continued progress and success in 2008 in our teaching, research, and public service missions and very much appreciate the support and participation of alumni and friends.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald E. Speitel Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

John J. McKetta Professor in Engineering and Chairman



## Call for Award Nominations

Alumni are strongly encouraged to nominate a deserving colleague who graduated from the UT CAEE Department for one of our annual awards. Nomination forms are available on our website or you may request one from our Alumni Coordinator, Laura Klopfenstein, at (512) 471-1279 or [klopfenstein@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:klopfenstein@mail.utexas.edu). Award criteria and deadlines are the following:

### **Academy of Distinguished Alumni (February 15, 2008 deadline)**

The CAEE Academy of Distinguished Alumni serve as leaders and role models among alumni and current students. Each Active Member holds a B.S., M.S. and/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.cae.utexas.edu/distAlumni.cfm](http://www.cae.utexas.edu/distAlumni.cfm)

### **CAEE Outstanding Young Alumnus (March 1, 2008 deadline)**

The Outstanding Young Alumnus recognizes an alumnus of the CAEE Department under the age of 40 who has distinguished him or herself with outstanding service and contributions to the engineering profession. The nominee must be under the age of 40 by March 1, 2008. To view previous award recipients or to download a nomination form, please visit: [www.cae.utexas.edu/outstanding.cfm](http://www.cae.utexas.edu/outstanding.cfm)

We look forward to honoring a new group of exceptional alumni and appreciate your help in nominating someone you know. We're certain you know a graduate who has enriched the engineering profession through dedication, innovation and drive to improve their community.

# Profiles:

## New Faculty Members

### Wassim M. Ghannoum

Assistant Professor, Structural Engineering, Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley, Civil and Environmental Engineering/Structural Engineering and Mechanics of Materials, 2007

Wassim Ghannoum joins the faculty from University of California-Berkeley, where he recently completed his Ph.D. His graduate research work on structural concrete and leadership roles at the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER) have prepared him for a bright future.

His main research is on the seismic performance, through collapse limit state, of reinforced concrete with older-type reinforcement details. Ghannoum also has research interests in large-scale testing of structural systems and components; development of structural component behavioral models; and estimation of structural component fragility.

In addition to his research as a graduate student and as a principal investigator's assistant, he has worked as a Structural Design Engineer for Associated Consulting Engineering in Beirut, Lebanon.

He hopes to continue advancing his research through multidisciplinary efforts and looks forward to creating a positive and challenging learning environment for students.



### Jinying Zhu

Assistant Professor, Structural Engineering, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Civil Engineering/Construction Materials, 2006

Dr. Jinying Zhu joined the CAEE faculty in the fall of 2007. She received her Ph.D. at University of Illinois where she researched non-contact non-destructive testing (NDT) of concrete structures using air-coupled sensors, a project funded by the National Science Foundation.

Zhu's research is motivated by the need to develop innovative, efficient, low-cost and reliable NDT techniques and her goal is to develop a testing system that can be used in the field to rapidly scan and image concrete structures.

In addition to her NDT of concrete, she has broad interests and experience in geotechnical and structural engineering. At Zhejiang University in China, where she earned her B.S. and M.S., her research focused on soil dynamics, low strain pile testing and load transfer mechanisms of large diameter piles.

In the classroom, she encourages students to apply what they have learned to practical, real life situations. Under her guidance, they have the opportunity to design their own experiments.

## Studying Traffic Solutions: One CAEE Engineer's Plan

It's probably safe to say that every major U.S. city has traffic congestion problems. In several non-U.S. cities, one solution has been to adopt congestion prices, in which motorists pay to enter crowded parts of the cities at busy times of day. Kara Kockelman, CAEE Associate Professor, studies traffic solutions and wants to improve upon pricing policies with credit-based congestion pricing. Under this pricing system, toll revenues are uniformly distributed to all travelers in that region. In essence, those who drive the most are paying others to stay off congested roadways during peak times of day, and system equity is greatly enhanced.

Kockelman says that congestion pricing gives people financial incentives to stay off the roads during the periods of highest congestion or take public transportation or carpool. Since expansion of roadway infrastructure is costly and often inefficient, imposing credit-based congestion pricing rationalizes the network's use while ensuring a base level of toll-free driving for all those who receive credits.

Kockelman and a former student used data collected by the North Central Texas Council of Governments and computer

modeling to see what may happen if this system were used in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex. The study showed that it would reduce overall vehicle travel by 7% and raise speeds



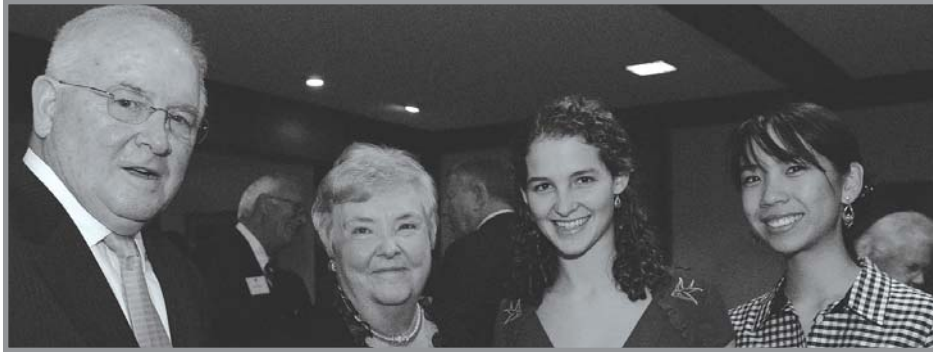
(photo: Christina Murrey)

Kara Kockelman, Associate Professor, is the recipient of the ASCE 2007 Harland Bartholomew Award for this novel pricing theory.

by 20%. Since every vehicle would require a transponder, they estimated that the start-up cost of the system would be \$11 per resident and recurring costs would be \$54 per resident per year. Although much education will need to occur before implementation, outside groups have expressed interest in the concept.

# Alumni Banquet: Celebrating and Reconnecting

In our continuing effort to recognize our outstanding alumni and provide opportunities to strengthen our alumni network, the CAEE Department held the fourth annual Alumni Banquet and Academy of Distinguished Alumni Induction Ceremony on November 9, 2007.



This year, over 130 alumni, faculty, students and families spent an unseasonably warm fall evening at the Campus Club celebrating friendships and honoring the success of our graduates. Alumni travelled from West Texas, Kansas, Alabama and Georgia to celebrate their experiences at the University of Texas, swap stories and reconnect with friends, former classmates and colleagues.

In conjunction with the Alumni Banquet, the Academy of Distinguished Alumni inducts eight new members each year. Established in 2003 to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of our graduates, the Academy of Distinguished Alumni is now 56 members strong.



2007 Academy Inductees (L-R): Mason Brown, Jr., H. Douglas Steadman, Randy Machemehl, Kishor Mehta, Eugene Dawson, Alan Plummer, Jr., James Barnard and Thomas Taylor

Jack Breen, Chairman of the Membership Committee for the Academy, highlighted the careers of the new inductees during a presentation. The new inductees all received at least one degree from the department and were invited to

join the Academy of Distinguished Alumni because of their distinguished professional careers and lifelong dedication to the support and advancement of engineering education.

Each year, the Academy receives many high quality nominations for membership from CAEE alumni and faculty. When selecting new members, the Academy goes to great lengths to choose graduates that represent success in all areas and degree levels offered by the department. It is important that students become aware of all the possibilities that await them after they graduate by seeing examples of notable alumni from a variety of technical areas.

In addition to the induction ceremony, Leo Roy Beard, Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Professor Emeritus, was recognized for lifetime achievement in the field of hydrologic engineering. The Department's Outstanding Young Alumnus award was also given to Melissa Moran (M.S. 1992) for her far-reaching influence in the drinking water field.

Our alumni have many accomplishments to be proud of as well as many opportunities for future excellence. We hope you will read about the new Academy members on the following page and at [www.cae.utexas.edu/distAlumni.cfm](http://www.cae.utexas.edu/distAlumni.cfm)



Student leaders are invited to attend the banquet

# Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni

## 2007 Inductees

### James L. Barnard

James Barnard (M.S. 1969) has designed over 100 innovative installations throughout the world by successfully adapting the biological nitrogen removal (BNR) principles to a broad range of locations and environments including developing and industrialized countries. He is recognized internationally as the "Father of BNR" and for developing the Barndenpho Process and Phoredox, the basis for all biological nutrient removal process configurations in use today. He has designed plants in his home country of South Africa and from Canada to Singapore.

### Eugene H. Dawson

Shortly after graduation, Eugene Dawson (B.S. 1957) co-founded Pape-Dawson Engineers, the leading civil and environmental consulting engineering firm in San Antonio. He has led the company from two employees to a total staff of 400 with 200 professional employees. Pape-Dawson has an extensive list of successful public and private sector projects including the SBC Center and the Toyota plant in San Antonio. He has also served as President of the San Antonio branches of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

### Kishor Mehta

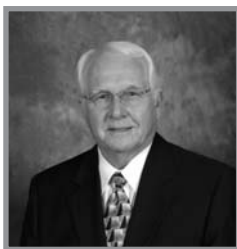
Kishor Mehta (Ph.D. 1964) is an outstanding teacher and researcher who is well-known in the area of wind engineering on an international scope. He is currently the Paul Whitfield Horn Professor of Civil Engineering and former Director of the Wind Science and Engineering Center at Texas Tech University. He has devoted 37 years to studying structural damage caused by windstorms and developing structural design loads for wind loads. Mehta has brought together several disciplines to focus on complex problems in wind science and engineering.

### H. Douglas Steadman

Douglas Steadman (B.S. 1946, M.S. 1948) is widely recognized for his project direction and attention to detail. Throughout the years at W.E. Simpson Co., he progressed from Apprentice Engineer to company President. Many notable San Antonio major street and drainage projects as well as the expansion of the San Antonio International Airport have been completed under his leadership. In addition, Texas grocery store goliath, HEB, entrusted it's complete site development and structural engineering to Steadman's oversight for over 30 years.



James L. Barnard



Eugene H. Dawson



Kishor Mehta



H. Douglas Steadman



Mason C. Brown, Jr.



Randy B. Machemehl



Alan H. Plummer, Jr.



Thomas W. Taylor

### Mason C. Brown, Jr.

After 17 years with Dallas-based Robert E. McKee General Contractors, Mason Brown, Jr. (B.S. 1959) became President in 1984 and was responsible for division offices in Denver, Houston, Los Angeles and San Diego. In 1988, Brown acquired a small concrete recycling operation which has grown into one of the largest concrete processors in the country. Big City Crushed Concrete recycles clean, concrete rubble into TxDOT Grade rock materials, providing the construction industry with significant economic and environmental benefits

### Randy B. Machemehl

As Director of the Center for Transportation Research (CTR), Randy Machemehl (B.S. 1970, M.S. 1973, Ph.D. 1975), oversees an annual research budget of almost \$15M. Under his leadership, CTR's annual funding has doubled and working relationships have been established with several other U.S. and international universities and agencies. Machemehl is also the Nasser I. Al-Rashid Centennial Professor in Transportation at UT Austin and has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to engineering education.

### Alan H. Plummer, Jr.

Since 1978, Alan Plummer, Jr. (M.S. 1968) has been President of the award-winning engineering consulting firm Alan Plummer Associates, Inc (APAI). His technical expertise in planning and designing water reuse applications has contributed to major water reuse projects in Texas, where he is considered a pioneer and leader in his field. A particular focus of his career has been the Trinity River Basin, where he has greatly helped improve the river's quality and has been involved in a unique water reuse project using natural systems, the first of its kind.

### Thomas W. Taylor

Throughout his 45-year career as an architectural engineer, Thomas Taylor (B.S. 1959) has been a leader and design innovator in the building industry. Under his direction, Datum Engineers, Inc. has grown into a national leader in structural engineering with a reputation for tackling technically complex projects and for progressive design solutions. He has built an award-winning firm by creatively applying structural engineering to support the artistic vision of architectural clients. Taylor has overseen work on over 40 structures in Dallas and is known for his energy and vision.

# CAEE Centennial Campaign: In Appreciation of Your Meaningful Support

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The Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering wishes to thank the following alumni, friends, corporations and foundations for their generosity during the CAEE Centennial Campaign, which ran from 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2007. Names are listed alphabetically for both alumni and corporations/foundations. All efforts have been made to list names accurately. If a mistake has been made, please call Ms. Kelsey Evans at 512-471-6151. Thank you again for your support of CAEE, both directly and through the Friends of Alec Annual Giving Program.

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***Thank you and  
 Hook 'Em!***



Pat Hogan (BS '74, MS '75), EWRE Professor  
 Joe Malina and John Richardson (BS '74, MS '75)



CAEE Students Denise Trevino and Marco Guzman



This new 10-ton overhead crane was purchased with funds donated to Ferguson Structural Engineering Laboratory during the Centennial Campaign

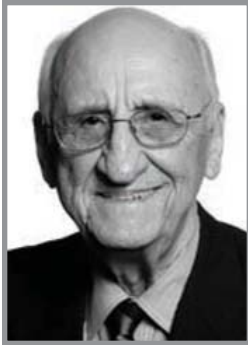


Llewellyn Powell (BS '32) attended the Dallas Area Ethics Presentation, which was made possible by Friends of Alec donations. Attendees earned credit toward their P.E. licensure.



Gifts supported the named endowments of Emeritus Professors (L-R). Earnest Gloyna (MS '49), Clyde Lee and W. Ronald Hudson (MS '55, Ph.D. '65)

# Recent Faculty Achievements



*Ernest Gloyna was awarded along with Hector DeLeon and Lady Bird Johnson.*

**Ernest Gloyna**, Professor Emeritus, was selected as one of three awardees of a 2007 Presidential Citation, one of the highest awards bestowed by the University of Texas. The Presidential Citation was created in 1979 to recognize the extraordinary contributions of individuals who personify the university's commitment to the task of transforming lives. Gloyna's leadership in engineering during the past 60 years has contributed to the growth and prestige of the environmental engineering profession and the university.

**James Jirsa**, civil engineering professor and Janet S. Cockrell Centennial Chair in Engineering, was one of four alumni selected to participate in "Master's Week" at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for his work as a leading applications-oriented researcher in the behavior and design of reinforced concrete structures. Since 1964, the University of Nebraska has designated "master" alumni who return to campus for a week to interact with students and university officials. During his visit, Jirsa advised students on building successful careers and updated faculty on developments in his field.

**Maria Juenger** has been elected Chair of the Cement Division of The American Ceramic Society by written ballot of its members. The organization serves the informational, educational, and professional needs of the international ceramics community.

**Spyros A. Kinnas** recently began Phase V of the University/Navy/Industry Consortium on Cavitation Performance of High Speed Propulsors, which he founded in 1993. This international consortium is currently supported by the US Office of Naval Research (ONR) and



*Spiros Kinnas is the Associate Director Offshore Technology Research Center and Professor - Phil M. Ferguson Centennial Teaching Fellow in Civil Engineering*

11 industrial members worldwide (including ABS, Daewoo, Kawasaki, Rolls-Royce, Samsung, and Wartsila), at a total level of funding of over 1 million dollars over the next 3 years. For more information, please visit: [www.cavity.ce.utexas.edu](http://www.cavity.ce.utexas.edu)

**Kara Kockelman** has been selected by ASCE's Transportation and Development Institute to receive the 2007 Harland Bartholomew Award for her 'credit-based congestion pricing' theory, which uses variable toll rates to eliminate recurring traffic congestion while allocating scarce road space equitably. The award is given annually to an ASCE member who enhances the role of civil engineers in urban planning and development.

**Joseph F. Malina**, professor of civil engineering was named Diplomat, Water Resources Engineer (D.WRE) by the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers. This title is given to those who are eminent water resources engineers and have professional experience beyond engineering licensure and strong professional ethics.



*Joe Malina, C.W. Cook Professor in Environmental Engineering*

**Ellen Rathje** will be one of two recipients of the 2007 Shamsheer Prakash Research Award. This awards recognizes research contributions by geotechnical engineers under 40 years of age from around the world.

**Charles Sorber**, Professor Emeritus, has agreed to come out of retirement to head the Office of Student Financial Services for an interim period. He is a former senior administrator at the University of Texas System, former president of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and former interim president of the University of Texas at Arlington.

**Travis Waller** was selected as one of the nation's brightest young engineers to take part in the National Academy of Engineering's 13th annual U.S. Frontiers of Engineering Symposium. The program asks the best young engineering talent in the U.S. to discuss current topics in engineering. Waller develops highly efficient computer models and optimization techniques to improve transportation networks.

# Solar Decathlon Competition: Integrated Design at Work



The Bloom House (center), a student-created solar home stands completed in Washington, D.C. during the 2007 Solar Decathlon

For five days in October, a village of 20 houses was erected on the National Mall in Washington, DC. for the Solar Decathlon. This U.S. Department of Energy-sponsored event is an international competition that brings together engineering and architecture teams from participating schools to see who can design, build, and operate the most attractive, cost-effective, and energy-efficient solar-powered house.

The University of Texas entered an interdisciplinary team of students from the CAEE Department and the School of Architecture. The team spent nine months on design and began construction in February 2007. Each house was required to support the entire power supply of a typical household with enough energy remaining to charge an electric vehicle for local transportation. Their solar powered creation also had to be transported from a hanger at Robert Mueller Municipal Airport to the nation's capital, where it would have to be assembled in four days.

Sam Covey, an Architectural Engineering senior, was responsible for leading the team in structural engineering, construction and mechanical systems analysis. He said that the team faced many engineering challenges and had to take them all into consideration during the design process. Students used computer-modeling to study natural ventilation and to design the building envelope for optimized shape and energy use.

Architecture and engineering students collaborated by creating architectural and energy-simulation models, with guidance from CAEE Assistant Professor and Faculty Advisor, Atila Novoselac. CAEE participants also developed innovative mechanical, solar energy, hot water and HVAC systems for the home.

The final result was 14- x 50- foot streamlined, modular house with a 7.6- kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic array and a skin-based design strategy that responds to orientation and climate.

The energy-saving features of the house integrate shading devices, cross ventilation, day lighting, advanced energy-star appliances, equipment and fiber optic and LED lighting prototypes. The house also includes an evacuated-tube solar hot-water heating system with hydronic floor heating. Because the house was made using lightweight metal-faced Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) as a single envelope, the infiltration load is



Structural insulated panel (SIP) walls were included in the design of the home.



2007 University of Texas Solar Decathlon Team

reduced to less than one-half an air change per hour. An Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) is also incorporated into the house to ensure adequate amounts of fresh air.

At the 2007 Solar Decathlon, the entry of The University of Texas placed 2nd in Engineering Design and 9th in Architectural Design, among 22 entries from around the world. For more information, please visit: <http://soa.utexas.edu/solard/>

# Outstanding Young Alumnus:

## Melissa C. Seib Moran, MSCE 1992

*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.*



Melissa Moran, MSCE 1992

After graduating from UT Austin, Melissa Moran joined the firm of Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., where she quickly became responsible for a host of complex drinking water projects, ranging from cutting-edge ultraviolet disinfection applications to construction management of two drinking water reservoirs for a water treatment facility in San Diego, California.

Moran also remained actively engaged in research activity as a project leader and manager for research funded by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Additionally, she was heavily involved in the Society of Women Engineers, serving as President of the Central Indiana Chapter and helping to establish a college scholarship fund for women.

In 2000, her technical skills and extraordinary leadership were recognized by Malcolm Pirnie, earning her an internal company award given to one of over 1,400 technical staff who make “a significant contribution to safe-guarding human health and welfare/sustainability of the environment, or who has demonstrated excellence in pursuit of these goals.”

Moran said she came to UT to begin graduate studies at a time when she was unsure of her direction or destiny in engineering. The Environmental Water Resources Engineering (EWRE) program was where she discovered “an enthusiastic faculty, an inquisitive and welcoming group of graduate students, a dedicated and caring advisor and in the end, a career.” She also met her husband, Dan (MSCE 1992), in the program, who is currently with her and their two daughters in San Marcos, Guatemala. They are both helping underprivileged communities develop alternative water supplies in the Rio Naranjo Watershed, which sustains over 70 communities and 340,000 people.

*“I credit everyone in EWRE for helping set my professional compass”*



Leading a chlorination workshop in Guatemala

Her experience in San Marcos has taught her a great deal and she says “low-cost, environmentally conscious solutions are the lifeblood of the developing world, and many of the advances we make in our country are vitally important in improving the quality of life for others abroad.”

## ASCE Student Chapter Returns to New Orleans

The process of healing and rebuilding is still in the beginning phase even two years after Hurricane Katrina. Over Labor Day weekend, UT CAEE students and Geotechnical Professor Bob Gilbert traveled to New Orleans for the second time to continue assisting in the reconstruction of the city.

The group stayed in Habitat for Humanity’s Camp Hope in St. Bernard Parish and helped with the Musician’s Village project in the Upper Ninth Ward. They also cleared out buildings and yards in the area. “You’re kind of working on a mountain and just getting started,” said UT student chapter president Marco Guzman. He also noted that it’s important for volunteer efforts to continue and “not be forgotten because of the passage of time.”

Professor Gilbert wanted his students to see the magnitude of the work that lies ahead for New Orleans in the hopes that it would influence their careers. The group plans to return for a third year in the fall of 2008.



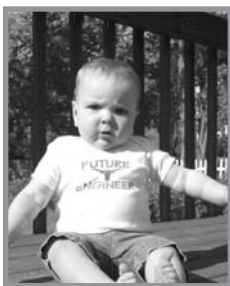
Over 80 UT students and ASCE members travelled to New Orleans this year. The trip was made possible by donations from UT CAEE and the Austin Branch of ASCE.

# 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](mailto:klopfenstein@mail.utexas.edu),



Dalyan, daughter of Sandra Akmansoy (BSCE '96, MSCE '97)



Anne Marie, daughter of Shannon Harty (MSEWRE '00)

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

## 50's

We'd love to hear from you!

## 60's

**James D. Dannenbaum** (BSCE '62), President and Chairman of Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation was appointed to a six-year term to The University of Texas System Board of Regents by Governor Rick Perry in November 2007.



Chik Erzurumlu

**Chik Erzurumlu** (MSCE '62, Ph.D. '70) was selected as a 2007 Distinguished Graduate by the Cockrell School of Engineering. He is Emeritus Dean and retired Professor of Civil Engineering at Portland State University. He was also the founding dean of the Masseh College of Engineering and Computer Science.

**Bobby E. Price** (Ph.D. '67) was elected to Honorary Membership to the American Society of Civil Engineers. He was recognized for 40 years of distinguished service and leadership in engineering education and the engineering profession and for outstanding contribution in the reformation of the future of civil engineering education and licensure.

## 70's

**David Daniel** (BSCE '72, MSCE '73, Ph.D. '80) was recently elected to Honorary Membership by the American Society of Civil Engineers. A pioneer in the field, he helped lay the foundation for the field of geoenvironmental engineering, contributing to environmental controls for contaminated land and groundwater. He recently led an investigation of New Orleans' failed flood protection systems following Hurricane Katrina.

**J. J. Minahan, Jr.** (BSARE '75), recently joined Integrated Electrical Services, headquartered in Houston, Texas. He will serve as Vice President/ Division Manager for IES Gray Mechanical as well as Vice President / Business Development for IES PollockSummit Electric. IES provides electrical and mechanical services throughout the country at approximately 100 locations.

**Amadeo Saenz** (BSCE '77), transportation engineer with 29 years state experience, is the new Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation. He is the first Hispanic to head the agency in its 90-year history.

## 80's

**Craig Benson** (MSCE '87, Ph.D. '89) has accepted a position as chair of the University of Wisconsin's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. His research combines field experiments and computer modeling in the area of geotechnical engineering.



Craig Benson

**Waheed Uddin** (Ph.D. '84) has been promoted to professor of civil engineering at the University of Mississippi where he is currently serving as Acting Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering.

## 90's

**Maryam Gharbi** (BSARE '92) is the proud parent of Sarina Gharbi, born in September 2006.



Sarina, daughter of Maryam Gharbi (BSARE '92)

## 00's

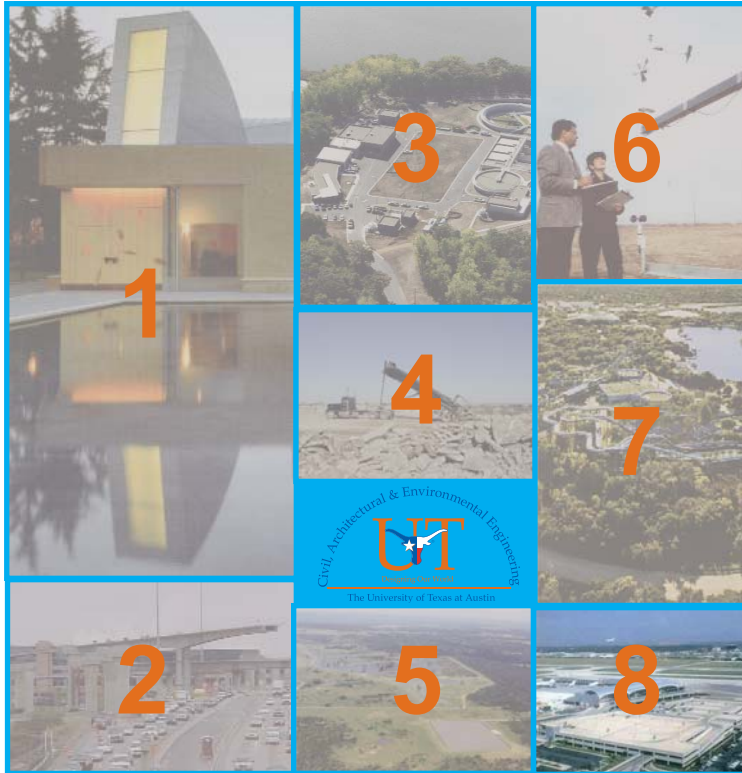


Jessica Guo

**Jessica Guo** (Ph.D. '04), assistant professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at University of Wisconsin, was selected to receive the Transportation Research Board (TRB)'s 2007 Pyke Johnson Award. This award is given each year for the outstanding paper published in the field of transportation systems planning and environment.

**Xiaokun Wang** (Ph.D. '07) was selected to receive a 2007 Council of University Transportation Centers Pilarsky Award for the best Ph.D. dissertation in Science and Technology. Her dissertation developed a model with applications for anticipating land use and air quality changes across Austin.

# What's on the Cover?



## 2007 Academy of Distinguished Alumni Project Photos

- 1) Chapel of St. Ignatius at Seattle University in Seattle, Washington - Thomas Taylor (BS '59)
- 2) High Five Interchange in Dallas, Texas - Randy Machemehl (BS '70, MS '73, Ph.D. '75)
- 3) BNR plant in Minneapolis, Minnesota - James Barnard (MS '69)
- 4) Big City Crushed Concrete plant in Dallas, Texas - Mason Brown, Jr. (BS '59)
- 5) Trinity River Water Supply Project, Tarrant County, Texas - Alan Plummer, Jr. (MS '68)
- 6) Wind Engineering Research Field Laboratory in Lubbock, Texas - Kishor Mehta (Ph.D. '64)
- 7) Sea World, San Antonio, Texas - Eugene Dawson (BS '67)
- 8) San Antonio International Airport, San Antonio, Texas - H. Douglas Steadman (BS '46, MS '48)

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