

UT CAEE

SUMMER 2007

civil, architectural & environmental engineering newsletter

www.caee.utexas.edu



The Eleanor Schonell Bridge, also known as the Green Bridge, is a 938-ft. long cable-stayed bridge located in Brisbane, Australia.

San Diego based International Bridge Technologies, Inc. (IBT) provided engineering services throughout design and construction. Cockrell School of Engineering Outstanding Young Graduate, Mike Smart (M.S.'96), is co-founder of IBT.



The University of Texas at Austin

Opportunities for Future Excellence: A letter from Chair Gerald Speitel



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

John J. McKetta Professor
in Engineering and
Chairman

We wrap up our celebration of the Department's Centennial on August 31st with the close of the Centennial Campaign. The response of our alumni and friends to this campaign has been truly gratifying. Over 1,600 gifts have been received during the campaign, and 22 new endowments have been established to support the cornerstones of our success: outstanding students, dedicated faculty members, and state-of-the-art facilities. These gifts will play a pivotal role in maintaining the recognized excellence of the department. For example, our undergraduate civil engineering, graduate civil engineering, and graduate environmental and water resources engineering programs were all ranked 4th in the nation in the most recent *U.S. News and World Report* ranking.

The current stature of our department is truly the fruit of decades of hard work and dedication by those who went before us. We honor their legacy today by a partnership among faculty, students, alumni, and friends that is committed to maintaining our leadership role in the future so that we can educate the leading engineers of tomorrow and develop creative solutions to our most important problems. Recent events have led to a growing appreciation of the crucial role that civil, architectural, and environmental engineers play in meeting the essential needs of society, and the landscape for the remainder of this century looks to be populated with even more challenges for our profession. Thus, a commitment to the excellence of our department truly has the potential to impact the lives of many for the better.

As we approach the end of the campaign, I ask that you consider participating or increasing your level of participation - at a level of giving that is right for you - so that our department can continue to lead the way. In an era of declining State support for public higher education, the commitment and generosity of alumni and friends is ever more important to achieving our shared vision for the department. One of my great privileges as Chairman over the past six years has been the opportunity to meet so many of our alumni and friends and witness firsthand the great things you are doing in our state, nation, and throughout the world. Your dedication to engineering and your genuine appreciation for the impact this department has had on your lives leaves me with complete confidence that the true spirit of the campaign, to provide our future students with outstanding opportunities, will be met and that the next generation will make the same great impact on our world as you all have.

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



What is the Centennial Campaign?

In 2003, the Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering Department celebrated its first 100 years of history, tradition and leadership. As one of the leading civil engineering programs in the country, we take great pride in our past and look to the future for continued and enhanced excellence.

When we began our second century, the Centennial Campaign was launched to ensure the financial health of the department. The goal of the three-year Centennial Campaign was set at \$5 million and aimed to expand the endowment of the department and enhance our teaching and



research facilities. Donors may choose to allocate their gift in many helpful ways. In the pages that follow, the gift allocation options are shown in greater detail.

Continued alumni support, be it through annual gifts, new endowments or planned gifts, is a great source of pride to the department. It speaks volumes when former students invest in the future of their alma mater and firmly believe in the aptitude and imagination of their successors.

For additional information or to make a gift, please visit: www.cae.utexas.edu/centennial

Spring Banquet: Student Awards & Faculty Recognition

At the end of March, students hold the annual CAEE Spring Banquet. It provides an opportunity for students, faculty and the External Advisory Committee (EAC) to come together to celebrate one another's accomplishments over the course of the year. The following awards were presented at the banquet on March 29, 2007:



Professor Richard Corsi and Gary Lehman, ASCE Student Chapter President

Richard Corsi, Ervin S. Perry Student Appreciation Award
Lance Manuel, Departmental Teaching Award
Young Jae Choi, Outstanding Teaching Assistant/Assistant Instructor Award
Zachary David Webb, John A. Focht Academic Excellence Award
Whitney Elizabeth Reding & Brian Allen Schnittker, Werner W. Dornberger Academic Excellence Award
Herman Gerhard Lehman IV, CE Leadership Award
Ben Travis Sadler, ARE Leadership Award
Renee Michaeleen Alsup, Robert S. Braden Technical Communication Scholarship



Award recipient Renee Alsup and Hillary Hart, Senior Lecturer



Recognition: Student Accolades

Ben Bayer, environmental and water resources graduate student, won first place at the 2007 Texas Water Student Paper Competition in Fort Worth last April. He was one of seven graduate students from the state of Texas who were selected to participate in the competition.

Chi Phuong Hoang, civil 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 graduate or undergraduate students who are interested in the relationship between indoor air quality and public health in building design and construction.

Federico Noris, a doctoral student in environmental and water resources engineering and **Donghyun Rim**, a doctoral student in civil engineering, received the Graduate Student Grant-In-Aid from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). They received \$10,000 and \$7,500 respectively. Noris analyzes material deposited on air filters and Rim studies human exposure to air pollutants.

Korn Saranyasoontorn, 2006 Ph.D. graduate, received recognition for his paper, "Design Loads for Wind Turbines using the Environmental Contour Method". The paper was co-written by faculty member Lance Manuel and was awarded Best Journal Paper for 2006 by ASME's Technical Committee on Wind Energy (Solar Energy Division).



University of Texas at Austin Student Chapter of ASCE - Steel Bridge Team

The **American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter** at UT captured three first place trophies in the Texas-Mexico region and won second place overall. They were awarded first place recognition for lightness, structural efficiency and stiffness. In May, the team competed nationally in Los Angeles, California, where they placed 6th overall.

STEER 2007: An outpouring of support

Structural Engineering Education Reunion (STEER), was conceived by UT structural engineering graduate students as a forum to discuss engineering issues with practicing engineers. The original STEER was held in 1985. Subsequent reunions were held to honor the late Robert J.G. MacGregor, to celebrate the careers of retiring faculty and in conjunction with the 2003 Centennial Celebration of the department. STEER 2007 coincided with the 75th birthday of structural engineering professor, John E. Breen.

This past March, alumni, faculty, students and friends gathered at STEER 2007 to participate in seminars, tour the Ferguson Structural Engineering Lab and to hold a Texas-sized celebration of Jack Breen's 75th birthday.



Jack Breen,
Professor - Nasser I.
Al-Rashid Chair in
Civil Engineering

The event began with presentations given by alumni who represent various career paths in structural engineering. They spoke of current research and innovative design projects in their fields. Graduate students and faculty who have joined the department since STEER 1997 also gave technical presentations.

Following the speaker sessions, the Ferguson Structural Engineering Lab held its open house, consisting of lab tours, poster presentations, and the BBQ birthday celebration. Guests were invited to tour the impressive laboratory, which occupies 45,000 square feet. The main structural test area is 400 feet long and 50 feet wide and is served by an overhead traveling crane with 10- and 25-ton hoists and a wide range of electronic equipment that measures various structural responses.

Once the barbeque was in full swing, Dean Ben Streetman presented Jack Breen with an endowed presidential fellowship plaque. Breen graciously accepted it and remarked on how significant it was that the fellowship was

funded entirely by his former students.

The John E. Breen Endowed Presidential Fellowship was spearheaded by alumnus Randy Poston (B.S.C.E.'78, M.S.C.E. '80, Ph.D. '84), who was also in attendance to present the plaque. To date, the fellowship has raised an impressive \$125,000 thanks to the generosity of structural engineering alumni.



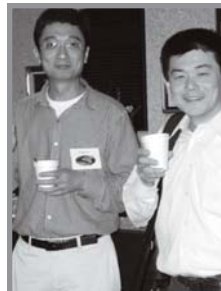
Dean Streetman and Breen



Breen catches up with Robbie Barnes
(M.S. '96, Ph.D. '00), an Associate Professor of
Structural Engineering at Auburn University.

Structures faculty and students also created a book for Breen that was a compilation of career project photos from his former students so that he could see the impact he has made on so many lives.

From professors to bridge designers, his students have accomplished a great deal. If you wish to contribute to the John E. Breen Endowed Presidential Fellowship, please contact Kelsey Evans at 512-471-6151 or visit the following website: www.utexas.edu/research/fsel and click the link under the STEER 2007 graphic.



Nearly 200 alumni, faculty, students and friends attended the Ferguson Structural Engineering Lab's open house on the first day of STEER 2007. The open house culminated with the celebration of Structural Engineering Professor Jack Breen's birthday.

Cockrell School of Engineering Outstanding Young Graduate 2007

Michael W. Smart, M.S.C.E. 1996



Michael W. Smart
M.S.C.E. '96

Michael W. Smart has gained considerable expertise in bridge design and construction in a short amount of time. In the eleven years that followed his graduation from the structural engineering program, he has worked under world-renown bridge engineers on several large international projects and co-founded an award-winning bridge engineering firm.

Before attending the University of Texas at Austin, Smart graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He came to UT to earn a graduate degree (M.S.C.E. '96) and became known for his strong work ethic and for helping out his fellow research students at the J.J. Pickle Labs.

In 1995, Smart began his career working for J. Muller International (JMI). At the beginning of his career, Smart was exposed to the work of several outstanding engineers, such as Daniel Tassin and Gerard Sauvageot, during the construction of the Confederation Bridge, a notable, 8-mile long crossing of the Northumberland Strait in Canada. While with JMI, Smart participated in some of the largest bridge projects in the world, including the Bang Na Expressway, a 34-mile long six-lane elevated viaduct in Thailand. He also spent time on site during the construction of the BTS Project, a 15-mile elevated mass transit project in Bangkok, Thailand and was part of the team

that engineered the Vancouver Millennium Line, a 10-mile elevated mass transit project in Vancouver, Canada.

In 2000, Smart co-founded International Bridge Technologies, Inc. (IBT) with his mentor, Daniel Tassin. After being joined by another exceptional engineer, Chris Hall, they established a strong reputation for this small firm by offering unmatched expertise for an elevated high-speed rail project in Taiwan. Based on the success of this project, their team grew to twenty experienced engineers and technicians.

IBT has become internationally recognized for outstanding bridge engineering. In 2004, the company won the American Council of Engineering Companies Grand Award for Excellence in Engineering Design for the Santa Catarina Bridge in Monterrey, Mexico. IBT has completed other major bridge projects in Australia, India, Jamaica and the U.S.



This award-winning, 997-foot long bridge crosses the Santa Catarina River in Monterrey, Mexico.

A longtime supporter of UT's structural engineering program, Smart credits his success to the solid background in the fundamentals of structural engineering he obtained here, the classical style of mentoring he has received and the strong teams he has been a part of. He has been married to Ellen since 1993 and is the father of Nick, Drew, Jack and Luke.

Alumni Outreach:

CAEE Area Ethics Presentations

In an effort to provide a valuable service to our graduates as well as an opportunity to network, we invited CAEE alumni from Houston, Dallas and Austin to participate in area ethics presentations. At each respective lunchtime presentation, attendees received the 1-hour ethics requirement needed to maintain a P.E. license.



Hurricane Katrina as seen by NOAA satellite.

The presentation, "Hurricane Katrina and the New Orleans Levees: An Engineering Disaster - What Went Wrong & Why, was given by Geotechnical Engineering Professor Bob Gilbert. As a member of the ASCE External Review Panel (ERP), which was convened in October 2005,

Gilbert was part of a team that conducted independent review of the New Orleans hurricane protection system failures. Gilbert was responsible for assessing performance reliability and risk management for this advisory group. The panel recently released its final report.

After the incisive presentation, Gilbert led a Q&A session and attendees provided their own insight and opinions on the system's failures. Both events were well attended by alumni.

For more information on Gilbert and the ERP report: www.engr.utexas.edu/news/articles/200706011250/index.cfm



The Dallas Area Ethics Presentation was on May 8th at HKS, Inc.



CAEE Centennial Campaign: Alumni and Corporate Friends Rally Support in Final Months

It's hard to believe that nearly 48 months have passed since the start of the Centennial Campaign was announced at the fall 2003 Alumni Banquet. What started as a monumental goal of \$5,000,000 is now a few hundred thousand dollars shy of success, and that number is shrinking daily! To date, more than \$4,400,000 has been received in cash, pledges and estate bequests. This puts us only \$600,000 away from our goal.

More than 1,600 total gifts have come in from alumni, corporate partners and friends from across the country, and from around the globe. Each gift will position CAEE for a second century of excellence, help to recruit and retain high caliber faculty and graduate students, and provide support to undergraduate students.

The opportunity to be a part of this unique time in CAEE's history expires soon. Now is the time to make a gift!
The CAEE Centennial Campaign will come to a close on August 31, 2007.

There are options for alumni of all ages to participate in the final month of the campaign. Please give consideration to what you can do to help pave the way for a brighter engineering future for our state of Texas and our world. All gifts and pledges received by 8/31/07 will count towards the \$5M goal.

Giving Opportunities

CE Centennial Endowment: Gifts made to this endowment are invested as principal, and from this investment, distributions are made annually to support the department and its many programs. Annual funding from the CE Centennial Endowment supports but is not limited to: undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, teaching excellence and faculty development, student organization activities, and department initiatives.

Named Endowments: Creating a new endowment requires a minimum gift of \$25K and can be paid over a five year window. Endowments may support a scholarship, a program area, or be created to honor or memorialize a former professor.

Program Support: To help us achieve our goal of providing the best possible education to our students, donors may direct their gift to one of the following program areas: Architectural Engineering, Construction Engineering and Project Management (CEPM), Environmental and Water Resources Engineering (EWRE), Geotechnical Engineering, Structural Engineering, and Transportation Engineering.

Friends of Alec: Donors may also participate in the CE Centennial Campaign through the Friends of Alec Annual Giving Program (www.engr.utexas.edu/giving/foa). Gifts made to CAEE through the Friends of Alec count towards the campaign and will be used in the following ways: upgrading classrooms/laboratories, scholarship funding, student organization activities, enhanced alumni relations programming/outreach, and recruitment of outstanding students/faculty.

Ways to Give

Pledges to the CE Centennial Campaign may be fulfilled in several ways including:

- Gifts of Cash
- Gifts of Appreciated Stock
- Gifts through Estate Plans
- Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets

For more information, a pledge form or an online giving link, please visit www.cae.utexas.edu/centennial or you may call Kelsey Evans at 512-471-6151. There is also a pledge form located on the back page for your convenience. Deadline: 8/31/07



Estate Planning Now Benefits CAEE Later

- Did you know that adding a simple bequest in your will today could change CAEE's future?
- Are you over the age of 70½ and wish to avoid paying taxes or penalties on your pension assets, and support CAEE at the same time?
- Would you like to secure income for life?

The answers to these questions are much easier than your differential equation exams in school, and they ensure the future of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering. If you have been considering including CAEE as a beneficiary of your estate, here is the standard legal language that you and your adviser can use when crafting your will:

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath \$____ (or ____ percent of my residual estate) in cash, securities, or other property to the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System for the benefit of The University of Texas Foundation. This gift shall be used to support the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering."

Be sure to let us know that you have done this so that we can include your generosity in the CAEE Centennial Campaign and in The University of Texas Leadership Society.

If you are over 70½, a charitable rollover law allows you to give directly to CAEE from your IRA. Gifts may count toward your required minimum distribution and may be up to \$100,000 per person. Now is the time to act as the law expires December 31, 2007.

Establishing an estate planning vehicle, like a Charitable Gift Annuity, a charitable remainder trust or a charitable remainder unitrust, is a perfect way to put appreciated assets to work for you and your spouse. Guaranteed income for life and significant tax savings are just two of the perks. A Charitable Gift Annuity is a contract between the UT Foundation and the donor whereby the foundation agrees to pay a fixed annuity to a maximum of two beneficiaries (immediately or deferred) in exchange for the irrevocable transfer of assets by the donor to UT. A portion of the annuity payment is usually income tax-free, and an income tax deduction may be allowed for the difference between the value of the gift and the present value of the annuity.

Advantages of a Charitable Gift Annuity

<u>Assumptions</u>	
Beneficiary Age(s)	68 and 66
Principal Donated	\$100,000
Gift Date	August 31, 2007
Payout Rate	5.7%
Payout Schedule	Quarterly

<u>Benefits</u>	
Charitable Deduction	\$34,445
Annual Income	\$5,700

IRS Circular 230 Notice: These calculations are estimates of gift benefits; therefore actual benefits may vary. The University of Texas at Austin does not provide legal, tax, or financial advice. Consequently, we urge you to seek the advice of your own legal, tax, or financial professionals in connection with gift and planning matters.

We are pleased to offer comprehensive details on the various gift planning options. Finding one that is best suited to your interests and needs is always the priority. For more information on these or other kinds of gift planning opportunities, please call Kelsey Evans at 512-471-6151, or visit www.utexas.edu/supportut/giftplanning for interactive planning tools.

Recent Faculty Achievements



The University of Texas at Austin

Oguzhan Bayrak was promoted to Associate Professor in Civil Engineering and received the College of Engineering Award for Outstanding Teaching by an Assistant Professor.



Oguzhan Bayrak

Chandra Bhat received the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Award for Excellence in Engineering Teaching and has been selected as the 2006-2007 recipient of the UT Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award.

Richard Corsi and **Jeff Siegel**, along with Dinh David, Randy Henning, Matt Mangum, Kathy Schmidt, Michael Waring, Jeong-won Woo, Hyo-Jin Yoon and Erik Zumalt received the IITAP (Innovative Instructional Technology Awards Program) Gold Award for Resource Development for their website, which teaches about mass and energy balances in buildings. The website is located at: www.ce.utexas.edu/bmeb

Kevin Folliard received the Texas Blazers Outstanding Faculty Award at the Texas Blazers Faculty Appreciation Breakfast in December 2006. Folliard was one of ten faculty members from across the University of Texas to be honored with this award.

Robert Gilbert was awarded Civil Engineer of the Year by the Austin branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He also received an Outstanding Civil Service Medal from the U.S. Army. The award recognized the guidance he provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the development of a risk model for the hurricane protection system in New Orleans.



(L-R): Assistant Secretary of the Army, John Paul Woodley, Jr., Bob Gilbert, and Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock (from left to right).

Kara Kockelman recently received the 2006 Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award from the Regional Science Association International (RSAI). The award recognizes distinguished contributions to regional science by young researchers. She was also invited to present her current research modeling efforts for Senator Kirk Watson's Mobility Financing Task Force Group at the February 2007 Captiol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.



Kara Kockelman

Raymond C. Loehr has been selected to receive the Environmental and Water Resources Institute 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is given to members who have significantly contributed public service and research to the advancement of water and environmental engineering. For over 40 years, Loehr has focused on the management of industrial and hazardous wastes and on technologies for the remediation of soils and sediments contaminated with organic chemicals.

Lance Manuel and Korn Saranyasoontorn won the Best Journal Paper for 2006 from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Technical Committee on Wind Energy (Solar Energy Division). The paper proposes an efficient simulation-based procedure for predicting design loads for a wind turbine that ensures specified reliability levels over the turbine's planned service life.

Ellen Rathje is the 2006 recipient of the Shah Innovation Prize from the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI). The prize rewards young professionals and academics for creative efforts in the field of earthquake risk mitigation and management.



Field Reconnaissance for Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake. Ellen Rathje is third from the left.

Jeffrey Siegel has been selected to receive the 2007 College of Engineering Award for Outstanding Engineering Teaching by an Assistant Professor. He also received an Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology at the 18th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning. The award recognizes highly creative contributions to teaching, learning and technology on the college/university level.



Jeff Siegel

John Taylor won the Beacon of Excellence Best Paper Award at the ASCE 2007 Construction Research Congress. The paper was entitled "Aligning Innovations to Design and Construction Networks" and was co-authored with Ray Levitt of Stanford University.

Sharon Wood was named 2007 Distinguished Alumni for Civil & Environmental Engineering Alumni Association at the University of Illinois. Her recent research includes development of wireless sensors to detect corrosion and procedures for evaluating the fatigue response of existing prestressed concrete bridges.

CAEE Professor Michael Walton: Influencing National Transportation Policy



Today's national road network is facing complex issues from improving the safe and efficient movement of traffic to effectively allocating resources for repair and future projects. With over 35 years of experience in transportation engineering, CAEE Professor C. Michael Walton offers his knowledge of the industry to help articulate issues that affect our integral roadway system and those who use it everyday.

Walton has recently volunteered his leadership to the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) as the 2006-2007 Chairman. The award-winning organization is the U.S. transportation construction industry's representative in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to advocate strong federal investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure so that the public demand for a safe and efficient business transportation network is met.

The transportation construction industry that ARTBA represents generates more than \$200 billion in U.S. economic activity annually and employs 2.5 million Americans. The association consists of over 5,000 companies, engineering firms, manufacturers, governmental organizations and university members. ARTBA conducts research, conferences, publishes educational materials, and has a number of standing committees from policy advisory councils to professional development sections.

As an academic broadly involved in practice, Walton's insight and connections add to his effectiveness as ARTBA Chair. He currently has consulting or research relationships in nearly 30 states which have helped foster many latitudinous relationships all over the country and abroad. Walton has connections to the Federal Highway Administration, freight, major corporations, engineering firms, state and local departments of transportation as well as academic research institutes.

As a researcher, he focuses on intelligent transportation systems and intermodal freight logistics as well as transportation systems engineering, planning, operations and policy analysis. Walton has written or contributed to more than 250 articles and reports. In addition, he holds the Ernest J. Cockrell Centennial Chair in Engineering at UT, is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and is faculty leader for the newly established

Transportation Endowed Excellence Fund, a first for the transportation program. To make a gift to this effort, visit: www.ce.utexas.edu/dept/area/trans/trans.html

In 2000, he received the Bartlett Award, which is considered to be among the highest honors in the highway transportation profession. Walton also received an Outstanding Projects and

Leaders (OPAL) award from the American Society of Civil Engineers in recognition of a lifetime of excellence in furthering civil engineering education.

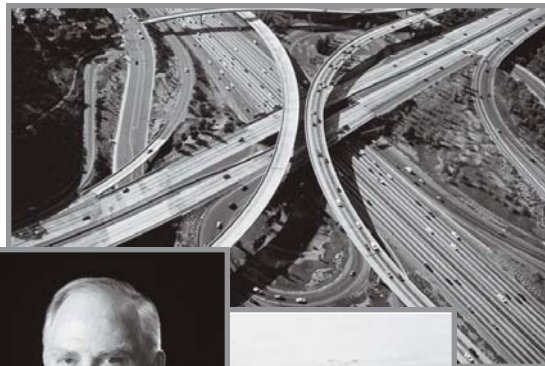
Walton is a native of Hampton, Virginia and received his B.S. in civil engineering from the Virginia Military Institute. Following four years as a regular army officer in the Corps of Engineers, he returned to academia where he earned Masters and Ph.D. degrees from North Carolina State University. During this period, he served in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington and with the North Carolina State Highway Commission in Raleigh.

As ARTBA Chair, Walton is ready to face today's surface transportation challenges and the underlying policy issues. He plans to concentrate on four areas of focus:

continuing active preparation for the upcoming reauthorization of Congressional funding and policy provision; launching a new, multi-year public education and industry image campaign; working to ensure that ARTBA has the necessary financial resources to maintain strong advocacy activities in Washington; and significantly expanding professional development programs, research and technology. He has already made appearances before Congressional Committees and Commissions on national policy issues.

Walton's willingness to listen and engage others will assuredly help ARTBA accomplish these goals. His resolve and commitment to a viable future for the nation's transportation program is essential in leading the industry through a critical time.

For more information, please visit www.artba.org



C. Michael Walton



Alumni Profile: Berry R. Grubbs, M.S.C.E. '65

Like many alumni who return to campus, Berry Grubbs is amazed by how much the university has changed. During a recent tour, he discovered something else: a load frame that he and Professor Hudson Matlock had designed years ago when he was a graduate student. And, it was still in use! That device, still utilized by today's students, is just one



Berry Grubbs is gracious with his time and always quick to encourage support of the department.

of many ways in which Grubbs keeps giving back to the department. He has been an active alumnus for many years and creates positive momentum in a variety of ways. Grubbs originally intended on becoming a Chemical Engineer but became interested in Geotechnical Engineering after hearing about his father's work each night at the dinner table. His dad, who went to work for the Army Corps of Engineers as a soil technician, often discussed the earth dams and other big projects that he was working on. Those conversations and his father's encouragement to attend college, created a spark.

While receiving his undergraduate degree at Arlington State College (now UT Arlington), Grubbs' professors saw his potential and recommended he attend grad school. When he competed in the annual ASCE Student Paper Contest against students from larger colleges and proceeded to win, he recognized his own aptitude. Graduate school soon followed.

Once at UT Austin, he remembers being with other graduate students in one large room of the Petroleum Building. He fondly recalls his classmates and the confidence Hudson Matlock helped instill in him. To this day, the relationships he developed with other students and his professors have been beneficial over the span of his career.

After receiving his master's degree, he worked on the Alyeska Pipeline in Alaska and the Port of Yanbu in Saudi Arabia. He has also worked on offshore platform projects in Japan and Brazil. Eventually gaining enough experience to start his own company, he founded Terra-Mar Consulting Engineers in 1981. Until the firm was acquired in 2002, Texas-based Terra-Mar provided environmental, geotechnical, and construction materials inspection and testing services with a focus on public infrastructure projects.

Since 2005, he also has served on the Cockrell School of Engineering Advisory Board. Prior to that, he helped launch the Centennial Campaign in 2003 and assisted in the establishment of the Hudson Matlock Endowment. In 2004, he established an endowment in his father's name, the *Harris Berry Grubbs Endowed Scholarship in Civil Engineering*, and is currently helping raise funds for the Lymon Reese Endowed Excellence Fund.

Grubbs gives back to the department because he says it was instrumental in preparing him for great personal and career opportunities. He feels that students and past graduates should know their quality education is in part due to the alumni support that makes great professors, facilities and programs available. He hopes CAEE grads will recognize how much the department needs and deserves their continued involvement.

In Memoriam: Frank Johnson 1923 - 2006

Franklin Beaumont Johnson, Jr., (B.S. '49, M.S. '51, Ph.D. '64) former Department Chair, Academic Advisor and Architectural Engineering Professor Emeritus, passed away on December 27, 2006.

Frank was born in San Antonio, Texas and moved to Austin shortly thereafter. Upon graduation from Stephen F. Austin High School, he entered UT Austin but his education in 1942, to serve as an Artillery Officer in France and Germany with the 45th Division. After receiving two degrees at UT, he was a Project Engineer for Anderson Clayton Company in Houston from 1952-55. His work involved construction of the upper deck of the Cotton Bowl as well as total design and construction of many structures and plants in the U.S., South America and Mexico.



Frank Johnson

Johnson began his teaching career at UT Austin in 1955 as Assistant Professor in the Department of Architectural Engineering, where he was well respected by students and his colleagues. His research area was in masonry engineering and he was the principal investigator on one of the first major studies that investigated factors that influence productivity.

He completed his Ph.D. in 1964. During 1960-64 he was Acting Chairman of the Department and Chairman from 1964-69. Frank shared his love of life with many friends and family through his hobbies and interests. He enjoyed golf, playing cards, hunting, fishing and traveling on cruise ships.

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.cae.utexas.edu/alumni



Thomas Lownes, son of Nick (M.S.C.E. 2005) and Chandra Lownes.



Elliot Duncan, son of Caleb (B.S.A.R.E. '97) and Jeni Duncan

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

In April, the Texas Exes and the College of Engineering hosted the 50th Reunion for the **Class of 1957**. Attendees spent the afternoon meeting current faculty and toured departmental facilities.



Earnest Gloyna, Ken Vickrey, Eugene Dawson and Womac Soward returned to campus for the Class of 1957 Reunion.

60's

Chandra S. Desai (Ph.D. '69) has been selected by the ASCE Geo-Institute Board of Governors as the recipient of the 2007 Karl Terzaghi Award.

William H. Espey, Jr. (B.S.C.E. '60, M.S.C.E. '63, Ph.D. '65) received the Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal for his commitment and contribution as a member of the ASCE External Review Panel (ERP).

Ron Hudson (Ph.D. '65) has been chosen as a Distinguished Graduate of the Texas A&M University Department of Civil Engineering.

70's

Rudy Bonaparte (B.S.C.E. '77) was elected to the 2007 class of the National Academy of Engineers, one of the highest professional distinctions given to an engineer.

Joe P. Dirik (B.S.C.E. '78) joined the Construction Law practice at Fulbright & Jaworski's Dallas office, where he will write a regular column in [Texas Construction](#) magazine.

Rex W. Tillerson (B.S.C.E. '75) was selected to receive the 2007 University of Texas Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Texas Exes, the Ex Students' Association, for his distinguished professional career and service to the university.

George Ward (Ph.D. '74) is on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Task Force on Bacteria TMDLs. He is associated with the Center for Research in Water Resources.

80's

Felix Benavides (B.S.C.E. '82) recently retired from the City of Austin after 23 years of continuous service and has been appointed as City Engineer for the City of Bee Cave, Texas. He and his wife, Monique, have lived there for 14 years.

Joseph V. Muscarella (M.S.C.E. '86, Ph.D. '95) was recently elected as an ASCE fellow after many years of distinguished service in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and later as a senior administrator in higher education. He is currently vice chancellor for administrative services at the University of Illinois.

Joe R. Rapier (B.S.A.R.E. '81)

has been elected as President of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., a full service engineering and architectural design firm in Lubbock, El Paso, Midland, Odessa and Amarillo.



Joe Rapier

David Winter (M.S.C.E. '81), will assume the role of president of GeoEngineers, Inc. Founded in 1980, GeoEngineers is an employee-owned firm with more than 300 employees in eight states.

90's

Michael W. Smart (M.S.C.E. '96) was recently recognized as a 2007 Outstanding Young Graduate by the Cockrell School of Engineering. He is a senior bridge engineer of International Bridge Technologies, Inc, a business he co-founded.

00's



Savannah Gunsch

Claudia K. Gunsch (Ph.D. '04), Assistant Professor at Duke University's Civil & Environmental Engineering Department, is the proud parent of Savannah Jeanne Gunsch, born in November 2006.



Elliot Losh

Derek Losh (M.S.C.E. '01) and Adrienne Losh (former College of Engineering Co-Op Program Coordinator) welcomed Elliot Losh in April 2006.



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