



Civil Civilities

The newsletter for the
Department of Civil & Coastal Engineering
at the University of Florida

A new year, a new direction...a School is born

The Department of Civil & Coastal Engineering, along with the Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences, will soon be housed under The Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment. The restructuring is a new direction for the College of Engineering. Under the leadership of recently appointed Dean, Dr. Cammy Abernathy (pictured), a proposal was submitted to these two departments for consideration in establishing the school. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was drafted by the Dean and discussed by the two departments that are involved. Both department's agreed to the concept and are now underway toward the restructure. The director of the school will be



chosen by a process involving a committee containing an equal number of faculty from both departments. This committee was formed and has completed the interview process.

The restructuring places a school director overseeing the two departments while a department head for each department will be responsible for accreditation, advising, curriculum development and other academic activities. All staff will be funded and supervised by the school, with the exception of the departmental advising staff who will be funded by the school but supervised by the department head. Though staff will be centrally

funded, they will be distributed throughout the school in a manner designed to optimize the service to faculty and students.

The director will be responsible for: the maintenance and success of all degree programs housed in the school, Faculty assignments and evaluations including tenure and promotion, all budgetary matters, development activities, supervision of fiscal and administrative staff, facilitation of a collegial relationship in and between the two departments and other duties that are currently performed by the chairs if the departments are involved.

It is anticipated that the new Director will be in place by July 1, 2011.

The CCE administration, faculty and staff are very eager for the upcoming changes and are looking forward to what the future holds with this new undertaking!

Spring/Summer 2011

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Special points of interest:

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University of Florida www.ufl.edu

Managing Editor: Nancy E. McIlrath-Glanville, M.Ed., M.A.

Gator Alumnus, Ananth Prasad, named Secretary of FloridaDOT

Ananth Prasad was named Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) by Governor Rick Scott. Prasad will be responsible for managing the \$7-billion agency which oversees infrastructure projects that are vital to Governor Scott's 7-7-7 Jobs Plan, including



port dredging, highway expansion and maintenance projects.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary of FDOT, Prasad served as the Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Operations for the agency. Prasad rejoined FDOT in July 2010 after a brief two-year stint as a vice president of a construction-services firm. Prasad has a total of 20 years of experi-

ence in the transportation industry, including 18 years with FDOT where he previously held the positions of the Chief Engineer and Director of Construction. He was responsible for implementing various innovative contracting techniques, including public-private partnerships.

Prasad earned a master's degree in civil engineering from the **University of Florida**.

Florida's hurricane lessons could save homes, lives in tornado-prone areas

Filed under Engineering, Research on Thursday, May 12, 2011.

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Scientists combing through the destruction left behind by the massive twister that swept through Tuscaloosa, Ala., last month say beefing up building codes and retrofitting existing homes with building techniques honed in hurricane-battered Florida could save property and lives in tornado-prone areas throughout the country.

“Since Hurricane Andrew struck Florida back in 1992, Florida’s building construction professionals and building officials have continually improved their structural load paths, which means that connections between the roof and wall framing and between wall to foundations have been strengthened,” said David O. Prevatt, an assistant professor of civil and coastal engineering at the University of Florida and principal investigator of the project. “In contrast, older homes in Tuscaloosa had mainly toe-nailed rafter connections, and almost none had adequate foundation anchors.”

The project is being funded by a National Science Foundation RAPID Response Grant for Exploratory Research to investigate and gather data about wind damage to, and performance of, wood-frame structures in the affected areas.

Prevatt acknowledged that there is no defense against the most devastating tornado winds, which can top 200 mph, but he said he believes improvements in home construction can make houses and apartment buildings safer in less-severe tornado conditions.

“There is no magic bullet here. An EF4 or EF5 level wind will still level even the best-constructed homes in its path,” Prevatt said. “The challenge facing us is to somehow improve performance of our existing

homes so that more of them can survive the less intense EF0 to EF2 tornado and by so doing better protect its occupants.”

The NSF recognized the urgency with the grant request because this type of data on structural failures is perishable; once debris removal begins, there is no way to analyze the performance of the wood structures, said John W. van de Lindt, a professor of civil, construction and environmental engineering at the University of Alabama. The grant is being provided to UF to work in close collaboration with UA and other researchers.

The research team inspected the 5.9-mile affected tornado path in Tuscaloosa on May 2-5 to analyze wood-frame structures

that were not damaged by trees. The team received clearance from FEMA’s Engineering Division and inspected 150 structures, including single-family homes (one- and two-story) and apartment complexes. Collecting more than 3,000 photos, the team determined the EF-Scale rating in relation to damage for each of the 150 structures, with values ranging from EF0 to EF5, depending on the location within Tuscaloosa.

Based on that data, Prevatt said, states that experience frequent tornado activity would be well-advised to beef up their building codes to more closely resemble those in the Sunshine State. However, he said, even more lives and property could be saved by encouraging homeowners to retrofit their houses to be more wind-resistant.



“Retrofitting is a costly business but the opportunities might exist immediately after a disaster to build back something that will perform better than what was lost. This requires effort to go above and beyond the minimum current requirements of the

“Retrofitting is a costly business... But realistically what price are you willing to pay for your family’s safety?”

building code,” Prevatt said. “But realistically what price are you willing to pay for your family’s safety?”

Other team members include:

- Andrew Graettinger, associate professor of structural engineering and materials, and David Grau, assistant professor of construction engineering and management, both at The University of Alabama
- William L. Colbourne, director of wind and flood hazard mitigation, Applied Technology Council
- Rakesh Gupta, professor of wood science and engineering, Oregon State University
- Shiling Pei, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, South Dakota State University
- Samuel Hensen, branch engineering and technical manager, Simpson Strong-Tie Co.

The team will continue working with the National Science Foundation grant and the International Residential Code to begin the process of making changes to ensure load paths are enhanced to better protect the life safety of the occupants. The research team also will be available for the city of Tuscaloosa and surrounding areas as the rebuilding process begins.

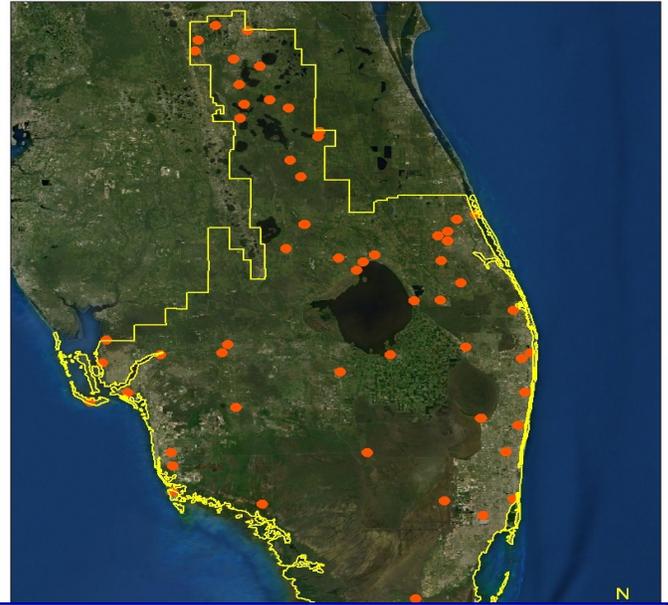


Design of Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network

Dr. Louis Motz has been awarded a project by the South Florida Water Management District (District) to design a groundwater-level monitoring network for the Upper Floridan Aquifer in the south Florida area covered by the District. This project, which is part of the District's 10-year plan to optimize monitoring networks across the District, will help reduce uncertainties in the District's numerical groundwater flow models by optimizing the District's groundwater monitoring network for the Upper Floridan Aquifer. Dr. Motz, along with Dr. Shirish Bhat, will design a network that recommends the number and locations of groundwater monitoring wells and frequency of data sampling that will provide equivalent or better quality data with the same number of wells or fewer wells, compared to the existing groundwater monitoring network.

A technical approach has been developed to optimize the District's Upper Floridan Aquifer groundwater-level monitoring network. Time series analyses will be performed to determine the temporal variability of the sample data. Sampling frequency will be recommended based on the ability to detect short-term and seasonal groundwater-level fluctuations and to discriminate between the effects of short-term and long-term hydrologic stresses. An ArcGIS-based geostatistical analysis will be performed to characterize the spatial variability in the groundwater-level data.

Groundwater levels will be estimated at locations in the study area where data do not exist. A potentiometric map (showing the elevations to which water rises in wells) of groundwater levels in the Upper Floridan Aquifer in the study area will be constructed, and an uncertainty map will be constructed to indicate errors associated with the potentiometric map and to illustrate the areas where additional monitoring wells are needed.



Existing Upper Floridan Aquifer groundwater monitoring wells within the District

The existing groundwater-level monitoring network within the District will be evaluated by comparing it to the optimal network that is recommended for implementation. Areas within the existing network with both excess and insufficient coverage will be identified. Recommendations will be made to implement the optimized groundwater-level monitoring network based on minimizing the number of monitoring wells subject to constraints established for allowable errors of estimate for groundwater levels in the District.

Cohesive Soil and Rock Investigation



Professor David Bloomquist, Professor Emeritus D. Max Sheppard, and Postdoctoral Appointee Raf Crowley have been working with the Florida Department of Transportation to predict bridge scour depth for rock and cohesive soil. Bloomquist, Sheppard, and Crowley have developed two unique instruments, the Sediment Erosion Rate Flume (SERF) and the Rotating Erosion Testing Apparatus (RETA) to study this problem.

With the new instruments, engineers can take in-situ rock core or Shelby tube samples and directly measure erosion rate. Testing with the instruments is fully automat-

ed through a series of computer-controlled feedback loops (with a LabView interface).



Engineers can set the instruments to "test" and erosion can be measured over the course of a few days with minimal monitoring. The SERF uses an advanced laser-ultrasonic system combined with a high-precision stepper motor to advance samples during erosion tests. The RETA utilizes feedback control between a torque cell-clutch and a variable-speed rotating motor. Crowley, Bloomquist, and Sheppard hope to use results from their research to develop a better method for predicting local scour depths in the vicinity of a bridge pier.



Center for Infrastructure Protection and Physical Security (CIPPS)

Now Offering a Critical Infrastructure Protection Certificate (CIPC)

The Civil and Coastal Engineering (CCE) Department has established a *Critical Infrastructure Protection Certificate (CIPC)* program for students interested in furthering their knowledge in the area of protecting the Nation's critical infrastructure systems against blast, shock, and impact incidents. The CIPC program is a 9-credit program, that is compatible with the decision by the College of Engineering to select the area of security and critical infrastructure protection as one of its focus areas.

The Center for Infrastructure Protection and Physical Security (CIPPS), established by the CCE Department in 2006, provides a solid foundation for both the proposed

focus area in the College of Engineering and the CIPC program. This program could be expanded in the future to several tracks, one in each of the COE engineering departments.

The proposed Critical Infrastructure Protection Certificate was formulated to meet the education needs of a diverse group of potential students, while working within the current CCE curriculum to optimize the delivery of education and faculty resources. The Critical Infrastructure Protection Certificate program will be administered through the CCE Department. It is further anticipated that offering this Certificate will strengthen relationships between the COE and government and industry sectors, which are expected to increased enrollment in both the MS and PhD programs, following completion of the Certificate. Further, it is envisioned that this new program will create new R&D funding opportunities, and enhanced job placement for COE graduate and undergraduate students.

Participants in the Critical Infrastructure Protection Certificate program can select three courses from the list shown below.

- Introduction to Protective Structures (required of all participants)
- Advanced Protective Structures
- Retrofit Methods for Protective Structures
- Applied Protective Technology

The prerequisites for program participation are:

- A BS degree in civil engineering with a specialization in structures
- Must be a graduate degree seeking student
- Completion of CES 6108 – Structural Dynamics
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.2 in the graduate program

- Impact Engineering
Typically, graduate students involved with the R&D activities at CIPPS take all five courses. Participants will be awarded the Certificate upon their completion of all graduate degree requirements.

Florida T2 Center Activities include FHWA Summits and Showcases

FHWA Every Day Counts Summits

Last fall, the Florida T2 Center successfully organized and hosted 10 regional Every Day Counts (EDC) Summits for invited guests representing state departments of transportation, FHWA, key leaders for local agency professional organizations and industry in ten different states for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The purpose of the EDC Summits was to launch the FHWA Administrator's (Victor Mendez) initiative designed to identify and deploy innovation aimed at shortening project delivery, enhancing the safety of our roadways, and protect the environment. FHWA Deputy

Administrator, Greg Nadeau, conducted opening comments and lead the closing round table discussions at each of the ten Summits.

Highways for LIFE Demonstration Showcases

In addition, the Florida T2 Center continues to organize and host a series of demonstration showcases on behalf of FHWA's Highways for LIFE (HfL) program that focuses on advancing Longer-lasting highway infrastructure using Innovations to accomplish the Fast construction of Efficient and safe highways and bridges. The three goals of HfL are to:

- Improve safety during and after construction
- Reduce congestion caused by construction
- Improve the quality of the highway

infrastructure

Showcases include a technical session and a site visit, some of which occur during the middle of the night to observe actual construction. Recent showcases:

- Rapid Removal and Replacement of U.S. 15/29 Bridge Over Broad Run near Gainesville, VA
- Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) in Washington, DC, Montpelier, VT and Sullivan's Island, SC
- Precast Concrete Pavement Systems in Ontario, CA and Fairfax, VA
- Performance Contracting for Construction (PCfC) in Clare, MI
- Prefabricated Bridge Elements in Frederick, MD and LaGrange, GA
- Prefabricated Concrete Pavement Systems (PCPS) in Newark, DE and Mt. Arlington, NJ

Center for Multimodal Solutions for Congestion Mitigation (CMS)

U.S. Congressman Visits the CMS

Rep. John Mica (R-FL) met with CMS students, staff and faculty on March 7 at the University of Florida's College of Engineering. The purpose of the meeting was to connect with the Transportation Research Center (TRC) and to learn about the CMS's activities as they relate to, research, education, and technology transfer. CMS Director Lily Elefteriadou was extremely pleased that the congressman met with students and faculty researchers.

"It was good to hear the congressman's perspective on research and education, and it was an excellent opportunity for our students and faculty to give an overview of their work to him in this forum," Elefteriadou said. "I was honored that Congressman Mica took time out of his busy schedule to visit with our center."

Congressman Mica is the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in Washington, D.C. In Florida, he represents the 7th Congressional District.



Rep. John Mica, CMS faculty and students



Conference presentations - past, present and future

CMS at TRB

Each January, as it is customary, transportation professionals and practitioners from all over the world convene in Washington, D.C. for the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) annual meeting. It is easy to spot a "TRBer" busily walking in and out and around the Marriott Wardman Park or the Omni Shoreham or others, with their name badges hanging around their necks and intense looks on their faces,



Dr. Scott Washburn (L) and PhD student Grady Carrick

some wired from an interesting session, and some tired from their long flights to the D.C. area. Here, the largest exchange of information related to the transportation profession occurs, the biggest names are present and students, the future of the transportation industry, come to learn and disseminate the latest in transportation research and practice. And once again, the CMS made their way up north to attend TRB, and to host the yearly UF reception at the Marriott Wardman Park hotel.

CMS faculty, affiliates, and students participated in various sessions, committee

meetings, gave technical paper presentations, won awards, attended the CUTC banquet and awards ceremony at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, and the UF reception. This year, the CMS's Student of the Year Award was given to Grady Carrick, a doctoral student, and a commander with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP).

The UF reception at TRB was very well attended. Students, alumni and friends of transportation at UF joined the Gators at the Mezzanine of the Marriott Wardman Park hotel on January 25. During the reception, students showcased their research by displaying posters of their most recent work.

International Conference on Low-Volume Roads

On behalf of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the Florida T2 Center is hosting the 10th International Conference on Low-Volume Roads July 24-27, 2011 at the Hilton - Walt Disney World in Orlando. The conference, held every four years, features the latest information about low-volume road management, design, construction, safety, maintenance, and many other important related topics.

Pre-conference workshops and field trips are also part of the agenda.

The conference is organized for worldwide practitioners in local, state, and federal agencies; universities; private firms; and international organizations.

Previous conferences have typically attracted 300 or so transportation professionals from all continents. Current registration includes attendees from 20 nations. Visit <http://www.trb.org/LowVolumeRoadsConference/LVR10.aspx> to view the preliminary program, pre-conference workshops, and field trip information **and to register for the conference.**



The ASEE Southeastern Section Annual Conference

was held in Charleston, South Carolina on April 10-12, 2011. Undergraduate student Asha John and Professor Fazil Najafi presented their findings on the "Influential Factors of Helmet Use". The objective of the paper was to identify influential factors regarding helmet use at the University of Florida.

Conference presentations - past, present and future (continued)

UF/TRC Workshop on CORSIM

August 11, 2011

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
Orlando, Fla.

The CMS, the Transportation Research Center (TRC), and McTrans at the University of Florida have developed this workshop for transportation professionals with experienced and intermediate knowledge of CORSIM. Participants will learn about:

- Recently added features for CORSIM
- Lesser known features of CORSIM that can be used to model unusual scenarios and provide advanced analysis capabilities
- Methods for comparing CORSIM results to HCM results and guidelines on applying CORSIM to FDOT project analyses
- Future changes in CORSIM

Six professional development hours (PDHs) will be offered for attending the workshop for transportation professionals holding a P.E. license.

Registration fees include conference materials and food and beverage services.

Sponsorship opportunities are available! There are various sponsorship levels that will entitle your company to discounted workshop registration and more. Your generous contribution will

help support this workshop and future technology transfer activities.

For more information, including registration, sponsorship opportunities and hotel registration, visit Conference & Workshops at http://cms.ce.ufl.edu/news_events/conferences.php, or contact Ines Aviles-Spadoni at 352-3929537, Ext. 1409 or iaviles@ce.ufl.edu.

Annual Student Conference

Each year in March, the CMS showcases the latest in transportation-related research conducted by graduate students at the University of Florida. Students from the departments of civil engineering, industrial and systems engineering, urban and regional planning, occupational therapy, environmental engineering and other related discipline areas attend and/or present papers and posters. The conference is free and open to transportation professionals in academia, and in the private and government sectors. Awards are given to students for outstanding presentations and posters. This year, students from the departments of epidemiology, civil and coastal engineering and urban and regional planning won awards for their presentations, and students from environmental engineering and civil and coastal engineering won awards for posters. The judges presiding over the awards selection were members of the CMS's

External Advisory Board. The CMS Annual Student Conference is held in conjunction with the center's External Advisory Board meeting. For more information, visit:

http://cms.ce.ufl.edu/news_events/2011_student_conference.php

Presentations:

1st Place - Yanning Wang, Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology

2nd Place - Ruoniui (Vince) Wang, Ph.D. Student, Urban & Regional Planning

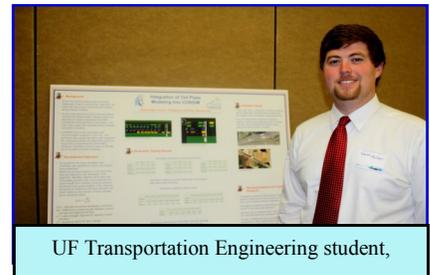
3rd Place - Dimitra Michalaka, Ph.D. Student, Civil & Coastal Engineering

Posters:

1st place - Ori Baber, Ph.D. Student, Environmental Engineering

2nd Place - Brett Fuller, M.S. Student, Civil & Coastal Engineering

3rd Place - Kwangkyun Lim, Ph.D. student, Civil & Coastal Engineering



UFASCE continuing the tradition of excellence

Over sixty members of the University of Florida student chapter of ASCE represented the university in the 2011 ASCE Southeast Student Conference this past spring. Following months of preparation and two days of hard-fought civil engineering competition, UF emerged 4th place overall.

Memorable moments included the UF Eckhoff Steel Bridge Team placing 1st after an utterly dominating build time of 6.61 minutes and an extraordinary economy of \$1.35M. Equally impressive, the UF Concrete Canoe team powered to a 2nd place title after posting consistently high scores and achieving first place in the Women's Sprint and Coed races. Rounding out the top-valued events, UF locked in the judges' attention to achieve 3rd place in the Professional Paper Presentation.

One of the more curious events was the Balsa Bridge competition.

UF submitted the second smallest bridge that held an overall weight of almost 300lbs. to the surprise of everyone, including the UF Balsa Bridge Team whose preliminary tests estimated a lesser strength. After bonuses and efficiency were calculated, UF placed 1st in Balsa Bridge. Other successful ventures included the Transportation, Concrete Cubes, and T-Shirt Design Competitions.



The University of Florida finished strong in the 2011 ASCE Southeast Student Conference at Tennessee Tech, but has already begun preparing for the 2012 competition. With the continued support of the professors, faculty, and sponsors such as Suwannee American Cement and Kimley-Horn, the unrivaled determination of the University of Florida students will rise to meet the challenge of the forthcoming competition head-on.

Students participate in IRF Road Scholar program

The 2011 IRF (International Road Federation) Road Scholar Program welcomed 21 students from 16 countries. The annual 10-day IRF Road Scholar Program gathers international graduate students who have demonstrated significant educational accomplishments as well as a desire to use their education to improve their home countries. Three students from the University of Florida Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering joined the program, namely Ohhoon Kwon and Kwang-Kyun LIM both from South Korea, and Johnny CHAN from Hong Kong Highways Department.

Road Scholars

Throughout the course of the 10-day Program, Fellows met with transportation industry leaders such as AASHTO Executive Director John C. Horsley, TRB Executive Director Bob Skinner, USDOT FHWA International Programs Office Director Ian Saunders, as well as multi-disciplines specialists in the World Bank. They visited advanced research facilities, listened to high-level corporate presentations, attended leader-

ship training activities, and participated in active-learning events. A particular highlight for the Fellows was the visit to the US FHWA Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center, where the Fellows were introduced to some of the state-of-the-art research being conducted at the facility.

An intense two days of meetings and executive leadership training provided the Fellows with knowledge, skills, insights, and advice on how to create the kind of career they want, how to be successful, and even how to enjoy life as a busy transportation professional.

The Dreznes Cup



Other than the visits and meetings, the Fellows were divided into four teams and competed for the first ever Dreznes Cup. The cup is named after IREF Chairman Mike Dreznes for his devotion to the fellowship program.

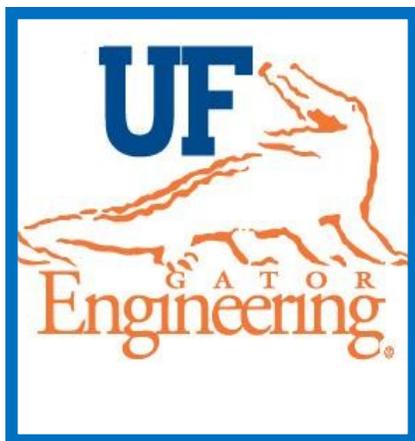
In this year, one of our students, Ohhoon (2nd left in the photo) with his teammates won the “Dreznes Cup” for top score in a final-exam team competition that included building a bridge with food items and earning points in a Jeopardy-like contest.



The Jerry Shea Leadership Award

Another student from The Department of Civil & Coastal Engineering was recognized for his outstanding leadership skills and the ability to work seamlessly in a team environment. Johnny Chan (pictured above on left) was selected by IRF and presented with the Jerry Shea Leadership Award. The award is named for Gerald (Jerry) P. Shea, a renowned engineer who exemplified quality leadership and who devoted much of his time to the IRF Fellowship Program.

The Department of Civil & Coastal Engineering applauds the efforts of these students and are proud of their accomplishments. Way to go Gator Engineers!



✦ Looking for a job? We will post jobs on our Facebook page that are sent to us by Gator alumni and others who are looking to fill positions. All it takes is to become a friend of the “University of Florida Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering”

[facebook](#)

Are you a Gator alumnus? If so, ✦ you can join the Civil Gators! It’s all about the network—we can be 7000 strong! Visit their website at www.civilgators.com



Todd in front of the palace in downtown Stuttgart, Germany

Featured Graduate student: *Todd Davis*

officer, Todd spent a year in kindergarten and later his junior and senior years of high school (1988-1990) in Mannheim, Germany. While in high school, Todd had the rare opportunity to travel to Berlin with his track team in the spring of 1989, six months prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall. His team visited Checkpoint Charlie and crossed over into the East

German sector of Berlin. One of his souvenirs from that time in Germany is a piece of the Berlin wall.

Todd's first experience living overseas as an adult began in 1999, when he and his wife, Shana (civil engineer) moved to Guatemala and opened a regional office for a non-profit engineering development organization. It was Todd's desire to further equip himself as a structural engineer that brought him back to the U.S. and to Gainesville in 2007.

Having experienced the advantages of cultural immersion during his years in Guatemala, Todd chose to complete two semesters of German at UF prior to his arrival in Germany, even though all the IWB staff speak English.

This research opportunity for Todd was all made possible due to Dr. Cook's twenty-year mutually beneficial relationship with research faculty from the University of Stuttgart. Those years of collaboration have included various research projects, journal papers, the

development of US and International codes pertaining to anchorage to concrete, and the hosting of two research students from the University of Stuttgart at UF. Todd had the pleasant experience of collaborating with one of those students who spent eight months at UF in 2009.

Todd has been selecting coursework during his time at UF that would prepare and position himself to play an effective role in both private practice and academia, possibly in an international setting. His goal is to partner with international academicians and engineers in both the private and non-profit sector in order to advance the understanding of engineering theory, ethics, and design for future engineers; conduct research in international partnerships; facilitate code development; and also influence infrastructure decisions that will empower and improve the quality of life of historically underrepresented members of society.

While the cross-cultural experience and witnessing firsthand the change in Germany since reunification will be enjoyable and educational, Todd ultimately expects that his time of professional research training in Germany will better equip himself and strengthen his resolve for his future goals of international engineering research and practice in this increasingly multicultural, interconnected world.

Todd Davis, P.E. (Ph.D. candidate in structural engineering) is crossing time zones and cultures once again. Under the advisement of University of Florida's Dr. Ronald A. Cook, P.E., Todd is researching the short-term and long-term performance of adhesive anchors in concrete, which has taken him to Germany to spend his summer in the Institut für Werkstoffe im Bauwesen (IWB) laboratory at the University of Stuttgart. He received a research grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to investigate the effect of early age concrete on the short-term bond strength of adhesive anchors, the goal of which is to determine when it is practical to install and load adhesive anchors following concrete casting. As the IWB laboratory is internationally recognized as a leader in research and testing in anchorage to concrete, this is a wonderful opportunity for Todd to work with and learn from his German colleagues.

This isn't Todd's first time in Germany, nor his first time overseas. As the son of an army

Featured Undergraduate student: *Tori Tomiczek*

Tori Tomiczek graduated from the University of Florida this May with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and a perfect 4.0 grade point average! She is excited about continuing her education as a PhD student in Civil Engineering and Geosciences at the University of Notre Dame this fall. She is honored to enter Notre Dame's graduate school as one of eight Richard and Peggy Notebaert Fellows. The Notebaert Fellowship is given to graduate students entering Notre Dame in any discipline and provides a full tuition scholarship, and health care through Notre Dame's health insurance policy, as well as a 12-month stipend of \$35,000 per year, renewable for up to 6 years.

Tori has had an amazing undergraduate experience at the University of Florida! She has loved all of her classes, and has really enjoyed being able to share her passion for Geotechnical Engineering as a Teaching Assistant for the Soil Mechanics Lab. Some of Tori's favorite memories of UF include cheering on the Gators at football games, being involved with the UF Honors Ambassadors, UF Swing Dance Club, and UF Lacrosse Club, and meeting with friends at Marston Science Library and Gator's Dockside. She looks forward to continuing her education at Notre Dame, where she plans to focus her research on the effect of hurricane waves on coastal erosion. As she begins her PhD program at a new school, Tori is proud to know that she will always be a "Gator Engineer."

The Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering congratulates this young gator on such lofty achievements!



Kudos to you!



Dr. Robert (Bob) Thieke has been named the College of Engineering Advisor of the Year! Among this recent honor, Bob has also been recognized for his excellence in the teaching arena. He won the College of Engineering Teacher of the Year Award in 1995, 2000 and 2005. He also won the National ASCE ExCEED Career Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003. We congratulate Bob on all of these achievements!

Civil undergraduate student, **Hugo R. Sindelar** was awarded a National Graduate Fellowship by the National Civil Engineering Honor Society, Chi Epsilon. He will receive a \$3000 fellowship in recognition of his outstanding academic work, along with his "significant, enthusiastic and excellent involvement in extracurricular activities, and particularly in Chi Epsilon. Way to go!

The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) Honors Awards Task Force chose **Mr. George R. Knecht** as the winner of the 2011 NSPE Distinguished Service Award. George will be recognized nationally at the NSPE Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on July 15, 2011. Congratulations to this CCE Advisory Board member and Gator superstar!



In memorium...

It is with deep sadness that we have lost one of our own. PhD student, **Michael David Ahrens** lost his battle with cancer and passed away on April 27, 2011. Michael earned his masters degree from UF in 2005 and had recently returned to complete his PhD. Even with the debilitating issues of chemotherapy, Michael was able to work a full-time job and take nine credit hours of coursework this past year. Michael had a very positive outlook on life and he will remain an inspiration to us all. Michael is survived by his wife Kay (an employee of UF) and his two sons, Jonathan and David. He was employed as a manager for LOADTEST (Gainesville,FL), a deep foundation testing firm and subsidiary of Fugro (International). He was 45 years old.



We are proud of our Spring 2011 Gator Grads!



PhD graduates: Acar Ozlem, Yu Chen, Parvesh Kumari, Xiaoyu Zhu

Master's graduates: Benjamin Ashcraft, Addisu Bekele, Michael Biffel, Stephen Bouwer, John Brown, Qian Cheng, William Cole, Krishnarao Dase, Sally Deschamps, Karen Deshon, Shusila Dhungana, Gary Drew, Christopher Egan, Robert Ferguson, Jacob Frye, Brett Fuller, Jessica Grant, Xue Gu, Simon Guevara, Ali Hanes, Su Hao, Roberto Herrera, Nicholas Kanelidis, Priyank Kothari, Dan Li, Weijie Liu, Sebastian Lopez, Saahith Mallavarapu, Matthew McCaul, Russell McCloud, Mitsuhiro Narisawa, Robert Newsom, Kenneth Pasken, Anand Patil, Alexander Poling, Balasubramanian Purushothaman, Keyang Ren, Peter Simms, Jarrod Stern, Yongyang Tang, Jorge Uy, Taylor Vogt, Jordan Walker, Ze Wang, William Woodington, Yipeng Xie, Xi Zheng

Bachelor's graduates: Christian Alvarez, Dustin Alwood, Avian Avena, Jeremy Becker, Kacey Bladergroen, Randall Booker, Javier Briz, Justin Brosseau, Wilfredo Burgos, Heather Byers, German Calvo Ho, Matthew Campbell, Joshua Canova, Amy

Master of Engineering recipient-
Kenneth A. Pasken

Cavaretta, Christopher Coleman, Bradley Cooney, Horatiu Corban, Marcel Cordes, Stephen Creighton, Michael Crumpton, Zachary Faraone, Miguel Fernandez-Annicaert, Kevin Frost, Arban Gjonbibaj, Peter Hankla, Andrew Hanna, John Haynie, Lee Hellstrom, Corey Hill, John Hillman, Brandon Hinson, Eric Ho, Daniel Holden, Eric Holhouser, Hamza Hosein, Jack Hulsberg, Lynn Itani, John Jenks, Asha John, Lakeisha John, Johny Kalim, James Keokosal, John Keough, Brent Langolis, Elizabeth LaBoone, Sergio Lizarazo, Kyle Longville, Michael Mack, Jonathan Marshall, Lucio Martinez, Julian McKinley, Daniel McRae, Gustavo Morris, Stephen Mothena, Lynn Nguyen, Matthew Noldan, Jacob Nussel, Justin Oakes, Jerry Paris, Carlos Pena, Sandra Perez, Cameron Pettit, John Pole, Antonio Renda, Xavier Rios, John Robertson III, David Roueche, Priscilla Sale, Geyzer Salgado, Sandro Sanchez Bernaola, Jennifer Seip, Cory Snyder, Steven Sonberg, James Stephenson III, Tyler Stevenson, Aaron Stolear, Kiet Ta, Matthew Taylor, Victoria Tomiczek, Sarah Tsang, Donald Watson Jr., Peter Whitfield, Carey Wilkinson, Chase Wilkinson, Matthew Wilson, Richard Wilson, William Worton II, Travis Young, Christa Zuccarino



L to R: Dr. Robert Thieke with bachelor's recipients Peter Whitfield, John Keough, Jerry Paris, Jimmy Stephenson, Amy Cavaretta, Asha John