I am pleased to announce two new inductees into the LSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering’s (CEE) Hall of Distinction. Dr. Akram N. Alshawabkeh, Snell Professor of Engineering and Associate Dean for Research (College of Engineering) at Northeastern University, is a 1994 graduate of our doctoral program. Janice Poplin Williams, Chief Engineer of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), earned her Bachelor’s in Civil Engineering from LSU in 1985. Both of our 2016 inductees, recognized at our annual banquet, are great examples of engineering excellence.

The CEE department also recently welcomed four new members to our external advisory board: Michael G. Cullen (Boh Bros. Construction Co., L.L.C.), Robert Rowlette, Jr. (Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc.), Gene Wager (Turner Industries) and Miles Williams (Sigma Consulting Group). Members of the board represent the breadth and scope of the civil and environmental professional community and meet regularly with the department to provide valuable input and feedback.

This fall semester, we will welcome three new assistant professors to our environmental group. Dr. Samuel Snow will be joining us from Michigan State University, Dr. Ziming Wang from Stanford University and Dr. Xiuping Zhu from Pennsylvania State University. In the fall edition of our newsletter, we will highlight their research in more detail.

At the time that this newsletter is being finalized, the department is preparing for our big move to the renovated side of Patrick F. Taylor Hall. The sound of tape guns can be heard down our halls, boxes are stacked in almost every corner, and tongue-in-cheek “eviction” signs are posted on our doors. We look forward to our new space and ask that you stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for updates regarding new office locations. As always, we welcome you to visit next time you are on campus.

Sincerely,
Dr. George Z. Voyiadjis
Boyd Professor, Chair
Bingham C. Stewart
Distinguished Professor

To connect with the LSU College of Engineering, please visit www.eng.lsu.edu/alumni/update

ALUMNI REGISTRATION & UPDATES

The Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering is always interested in how our alumni are doing. We hope you will take the time to send your updates to jmueller@lsu.edu or, if you prefer, you can “snail mail” them to:

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Louisiana State University
Attn: Julie Mueller
3325 Patrick Taylor Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-6405

Please include basic information such as your full name, year of graduation, degree, mailing address, email address, telephone number, company, and your title/position. For your update, please include information on your recent professional and personal developments, along with a high-quality photo, if available.

Thanks for staying in touch!

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In March, members of the American Society for Civil Engineers (ASCE) at LSU student chapter participated in the 2016 Deep South Regional Conference hosted by McNeese State University. The Deep South Regional Conference aims "to further technical, professional, and ethical knowledge of these students as it relates to civil engineering." Members of the steel bridge and concrete canoe teams traveled to Lake Charles, Louisiana, to compete against student chapters from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

The concrete canoe team received second place in the women's 600 m endurance race, as well as in the co-ed 400 m sprint race. This year's team included members Breanna Bell, Gabrielle Dubroc, Daniel Gutierrez, Alex Rome, Amanda Jackson, and ChrisWatson (Capsain). This year, the LSU bridge team designed and built a truss-style bridge and incorporated a sleeve-type design for the truss and footing components. The steel bridge team would like to thank the following sponsors: Crest Operations, LLC; American Institute of Steel Construction; Shread-Kuykendall & Associates; ISC Constructors, LLC.

Gabrielle Dubroc also received second place in the Meat Paper Competition for her technical paper and oral presentation. Members also received second place in the mystery event.

The ASCE student chapter would like to thank the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering for its support, along with faculty advisor Dr. Michele Barbato and CEE staff member David Robertson for making their participation in the regional conference possible.

search for "LSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering" Click "like" and add us to your interest list to receive news and updates from the department!
DR. GEORGE Z. VOYIAJDJIS INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING OF KOREA

George Z. Voyiadjis, Chair of LSU College of Engineering’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has been inducted as a Foreign Member into the prestigious National Academy of Engineering of Korea. The Academy elected Voyiadjis, who also serves as a Boyd Professor and the Bingham C. Stewart Distinguished Professor of Engineering at LSU, as a foreign member for his leading position in science and his significant contribution to the development of cooperation with Korea. President of the National Academy of Engineering of Korea Professor Young Ho Oh presented Voyiadjis with the certificate during the organization’s annual meeting in Seoul, Korea.

While in Korea, he was also honored by an international symposium on “Multi-physical solutions for harsh environments: Computations and Experiments” sponsored by Hanyang University in Seoul, chaired by T. Park in March.

“This distinction represents a recognition way beyond anything I ever imagined as a student at Columbia University nearly 43 years ago. My experience in industry and my academic appointment overseas has allowed me to think in a more global sense and at the same time stay relevant to engineering applications in my research endeavors. That’s what keeps me grounded and gives me the ability to continue to do all this work,” Voyiadjis said.

The National Academy of Engineering of Korea is a non-governmental organization. Independently it provides engineering and technological leadership to Korea. The academy has 914 prominent members in academia, business, research institutes and government who are proficient and well accomplished engineers.

In 2009, Voyiadjis was selected by the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation, or KOSEF, as one of the only two World Class University, or WCU, foreign scholars in the area of civil and architectural engineering to work on nanofusion in civil engineering at Hanyang University. The multimillion dollar research grant was headed by Professor Taehyo Park, of Hanyang University, and was one of the largest grants in the history of Korea. Voyiadjis was an honorary visiting professor in Hanyang University during the term of the project. It was the only WCU project that was funded by the Korean government in the area of civil and architectural engineering. The project addresses the challenge of nanofusion in civil engineering. The project shows that his international colleagues also regard nanotechnology as an important future direction in engineering, and Voyiadjis has been recognized as one of the leaders of his generation in that area. This was a five-year project for $3.5 million and was on the “Development of multiscale simulation methods for nanofusion technologies in construction materials for sustainable infrastructures.”

In 2010, recognizing the value of research and education interchange and the benefits of collaboration, Hanyang University and LSU signed a Memorandum of Understanding, a commitment to cooperation and the development of cooperative scientific and educational programs in civil and environmental engineering. This was initiated through the collaborations of Park at Hanyang University and Voyiadjis at LSU.

In 2011, a dual degree program was also established for Ph.D. students between LSU and Hanyang University in civil engineering, specifically in the area of solid mechanics including advanced material behavior and research.

ITE STUDENT CHAPTER COMPETES IN TRAFFIC BOWL

The ITE-LSU student chapter represented LSU at the Deep South Institute of Transportation Engineers (DSIITE) traffic bowl competition on February 17, 2016, in Rigeland, Mississippi. The LSU team won the competition for the first time since the student chapter’s reactivation in 2011. ITE-LSU then participated in the Southern District Traffic Bowl Competition in Nashville, Tennessee, in April where they won 2nd runner up (third place).

The ITE-LSU traffic bowl team is comprised of the following students: Mr. Peter Bakhit (graduate student), Mr. Pranjal Phaltane (graduate student), and Ms. Nelida Herrera (graduate student).

CHI EPSILON: CIVIL ENG HONORS SOCIETY AT LSU

The LSU chapter of Chi Epsilon, a national civil engineering honors society, recently held its initiation for new members and officers. The newly-elected student members and officers are Curtis Marcello (President), Jarrett Logan (Vice-President), Claire Like (Secretary), Marisa Fanguy (Treasurer), Alyssa Bienes (Assistant Editor), and Maddie Berry (Marshal). Dr. Shengli Chen has been nominated as the faculty member and inducted as the faculty advisor of the chapter as well. The chapter would like to thank the immediate past faculty advisor, Dr. Frank Tsai, for his dedication to reactivating the chapter here at LSU.

If you are interested in joining Chi Epsilon, please contact Curtis Marcello (cmarce7@lsu.edu) for more information.

CE4460 VISITS PRECAST CONCRETE PRODUCTION SITE

Students enrolled in the capstone project class (Design of Bridges – CE4460) visited a precast concrete production site on April 28, 2016, with Dr. Ayman Okeil who, along with Mr. Paul Fossier – Louisiana State Bridge Engineer, teaches the course. Mr. Sims Regard, VP at Wasko Bridges, Inc., in Baton Rouge, hosted the students for a tour of their facility, followed by an invitation for lunch. The students saw production steps of several ongoing projects, including precast slab bridges, barriers, and industrial platforms. The knowledgeable Wasko staff (Mr. Sims Regard, Mr. Brady Wax, and Ms. Dawn Carrier) explained to the students the ins and outs of precast concrete production. They learned how forms are prepared, how reinforcement is placed, and went into the concrete batch plant control room.

Field trips like these complement classroom instruction and help make students aware of the real world side of their future jobs.
An active member of AASHTO, she served as a member of the Subcommittee on Maintenance from 2007-2013, including service as one of the Vice Chairs of the Bridge Technical Working Group from 2009-2013. Since her appointment as Chief Engineer in 2014, Williams has served as a member of the Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH).

Williams is a licensed professional engineer in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Louisiana Engineering Society, and Louisiana Society of Professional Engineers in Civil Service and Women in Transportation Seminar.

In 2011, Williams received the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Service Award. This award is the highest honor classified state employees can receive for their service to the citizens of Louisiana and is awarded for commitment to classified service, contributions toward workplace improvement, personal initiative, and volunteer community service.

Williams has been an active community volunteer, having spent 14 years as a volunteer and leader with the Girl Scouts of Louisiana East Regional Center. She spent six years as a Riding Director in the Camp Marydale Wrangler program in St. Francisville where girls learn horsemanship, teamwork, and leadership while providing a riding program for Girl Scout campers. Since retiring from the Girl Scouts in 2012, Williams has joined Cat Haven as a volunteer and serves regularly at the LSU Vet School spay day events held monthly.

Williams has been married to Montford E. Williams, III since 1985, and they have four children and one grandchild. Two of their children are involved in engineering with one pursuing a Master’s degree in education while working as an assistant editor reviewing engineering research reports, and the other is a December 2015 LSU graduate with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. Williams is the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. Jack K. Poplin. Dr. Poplin was a faculty member of the LSU Civil Engineering Department from 1968-1994.

In April 2016, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) held the 5th annual CEE Graduate Student Research Conference. Held in Patrick F. Taylor Hall, 38 participants displayed research posters to conference guests and judges. The conference also featured guest speaker Dr. Michelle Massé, Dean of the LSU Graduate School.

Judging for the conference was conducted by a panel of 18 individuals from each research concentration area. Each was reviewed for technical content, delivery of the poster presentation, and design and clarity. Results were tallied and the following winners were announced:

Trent A. Key (1st Place: $600)
“Characterization and Genomic Insights from a Novel Isolate within the Genus Dehalogenimonas”
Advisor: Dr. William Moe

Yasser Bigdeli (2nd Place: $300)
“Use of a low-cost fluorogypsum-based composite for applications in underwater and coastal protection structures”
Advisor: Dr. Michele Barbato

Moinal I. Mahdi (3rd Place: $100)
“Performance Evaluation of Thin RCC Pavements under Accelerated Pavement Testing”
Advisors: Dr. Zhong Wu, Dr. Louay Mohammad

Honorable Mention
Siavash Shojaat (Transportation)
Christopher Sward (Water/Coastal)
Charles Davis Loftos (Environmental)
Shuang Cao (Geotech)
Aref Samadi-Doosti (Structures/Mechanics)

COPRI, LSU’s student chapter of the ASCE’s Coasts, Ports, and Rivers Institute, organized a successful field trip to the Caminada Heads beach/dune restoration. LSU professors, Drs. Q. Jim Chen and Navid Jafari, along with 12 students, toured the extensive project led by Brad Miller and Mark Leaon of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). The tour consisted of driving off-road vehicles along the beach of Port Fourchon and stopping at import junctures in the construction of the new beach.

The CPRA is tasked with the coast-wide management of coastal hazards and restoration. The Caminada Headlands Restoration’s most recent achievement is a budget that tops $200 million, which includes the creation of 13 miles of beach. The 300 acres of new barrier island land mass protects the critical oil and gas infrastructure of Port Fourchon from tropical and extratropical storms.

L-COPRI will continue to provide opportunities like this to the students of LSU in the years to follow. If you are interested in becoming a member email the communications officer Cody Jobnson at cjohn296@lsu.edu.

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In addition, Williams served on the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Pavement Preservation Expert Task Groups from 1999 to 2010. Based on her expertise in preservation, Williams was asked to serve as a member of the FHWA Bridge Preservation Expert Task Group upon its formation in 2010. These national teams were created to promote pavement and bridge preservation, acceptance, and implementation through the development of technical guidelines with the identification of related training and research needs.

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Prior to this appointment, Williams served as the Chief of the Systems Engineering Division for four years. Her leadership of the Systems Preservation Section allowed them to be successful at fulfilling the project delivery demands for three budget surplus programs as well as the projects funded by the American Recovery and Re-investment Act of 2009. During her service in the Systems Engineering Division, Williams was responsible for the development of a new bridge preservation program. DODT’s Bridge Preservation Program gained national recognition for being one of the first to receive approval for the use of federal funds for this activity.

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Congratulations to Dr. Sam Cooper Jr (PCE 2015) on being selected for a 2015 College of Engineering Distinguished Dissertation Award for his dissertation titled "Sustainable Materials for Pavement Infrastructure: Design and Performance of Asphalt Mixtures Containing Recycled Asphalt Shingles." Dr. Cooper is a 2015 graduate and was recently appointed Director of the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC).

Janice P. Williams
PE
Chief Engineer
Office of Engineering, LA DOTD
BS in Civil Engineering, LSU

For a complete list and profiles of all members of the CEE Hall of Distinction, please visit online at www.cee.lsu.edu/alum/hod

Janice Poplin Williams was appointed as the Chief Engineer of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in March 2014 by Secretary Sherri H. LeBas. During her tenure as Chief Engineer, Williams has focused on Safety, Quality, Accountability, and Program Delivery. As the engineering leader of DOTD, Williams provided guidance to a staff of more than 500 engineers, engineering technicians, and support staff while promoting innovation, continuous improvement, and efficient use of resources. She is responsible for establishing engineering standards, policies, and procedures that guide project delivery, construction, and preservation of all transportation-related projects and systems. In addition, Williams is accountable for the on-time and on-budget delivery of the DOTD Highway Priority Program.

Williams earned her bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University in May 1985 and was a member of the Chi Epsilon honors society. She began her career as an engineer in training for DOTD’s Road Design Section in June 1985. She was given responsibility early in her career when assigned as the Interstate 4R program manager in 1987. For the next 19 years, she served as a project and program manager for projects of all shapes and sizes, including interstates, capacity improvements, large and small bridge replacements, urban systems, enhancements, and a new Mississippi River crossing. She was responsible for over 1,200 projects totaling over $2.3 billion in construction costs. While serving as the Pavement Preservation Program Manager, her programs were often called upon to fill in the gaps where needed to prevent funding from lapsing. In June 2010, she was selected for her previous position as Chief of the Project Development Division. As the Chief of the Project Development Division, Williams

Alumni Updates

CEE alum Keith Flowers was recently selected as the Chief of the River Engineering Branch, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, Engineer Research and Development Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A Vicksburg native, Keith received his Masters of Business Administration (2010) and Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering (2005) from Louisiana State University. Additionally, he received his Masters of Engineering from the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies and is a member of several national and international committees. Dr. Alshawabkeh has a track record of collaboration with government laboratories and industry.

Brad Hernandez, PE (BCE 2001) was recently promoted to Project Manager with AECOM (Dallas). He was also elected President of the ASCE Dallas branch. Most recently, he was chosen as one of the Top 20 Under 40 by the Engineering News-Record (ENR) for the Texas and Louisiana Region, which includes Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Gerald Songy (BCE 2013) is currently enrolled in the Erasmus Mundus Coastal and Marine Engineering and Management M.Sc. program in Europe. Songy spent one semester in Trondheim, Norway at NTNU, one semester at TU Delft in Delft, the Netherlands, another semester in Southampton, England, at the University of Southampton, and then his upcoming and final semester will return to TU Delft for his master thesis work. Songy’s research will be supervised by both TU Delft and Deltas, and he will be studying the impact that various saltmarsh coastlines have on wave height reduction by using the XBeach-vegetation computer model.

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In May 2016, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) held its annual Hall of Distinction Banquet at the Lod Cook Alumni Center to honor its latest inductees: Dr. Akram N. Alshawabkeh and Janice P. Williams. In addition to the inductees and their guests, also in attendance were current CEE Hall of Distinction members, members of the CEE External Advisory Board, CEE faculty and staff, and students.

Including the two recent inductees, the CEE Hall of Distinction now includes 29 members. Initiated in 2001, CEE created the Hall of Distinction to recognize individuals who have made stalwart contributions to the profession. Candidates are carefully selected based on distinguished professional achievement and service to civil and environmental engineering. Inductees have made substantial impact in their field and to the CEE department. In honoring these individuals, the department intends through them to recognize all those who have contributed to engineering excellence.

For the second year, the CEE department recognized several outstanding students. Civil Engineering undergraduates Jacob Watts and Elizabeth Hutchinson received Academic Achievement Awards. Environmental Engineering undergraduates Aaron Bennett and Kevin Brown received Academic Achievement Awards as well. Md. Naiful Haque, a civil engineering doctoral student, was selected Graduate Student of the Year.

Also recognized were recipients of the 2016 faculty and staff awards. Dr. Q. Jim Chen, CSRS Distinguished Professor in Coastal Engineering, (pictured bottom left) was recognized with a Research Achievement Award. Dr. William “Bill” Moé, Marvin Rex Clemons Professor in the College of Engineering, (pictured middle), was recognized with an Educational Achievement Award. Staff member David Robertson (pictured bottom right) was recognized with the Departmental Service Award.

Dr. Alshawabkeh is the Principal Investigator (PI) and Director of the “Puerto Rico Test site for Exploring Contamination Threats (PROTECT)” Superfund Research Program (SRP) Center, funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the PI and Director of Center for Research on Early Childhood Exposure and Development in Puerto Rico (CREEC) funded by NIEHS and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As the Director of PROTECT and CREEC, Dr. Alshawabkeh leads a team that includes epidemiologists, engineers, sociologists, biostatisticians, pediatricians, and toxicologists to study environmental and water contamination in Puerto Rico and its effects on preterm birth and adverse pregnancy outcomes to develop prevention and remediation strategies.

Dr. Akram N. Alshawabkeh is the George A. Snell Professor of Engineering and Associate Dean for Research at the College of Engineering at Northeastern University. He is also a Geo-environmental Engineering Professor at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE). Dr. Alshawabkeh is an internationally-recognized expert in coupling soil behavior with geochemistry and geomechanics, contaminant fate and transport in soil and groundwater, soil remediation, electrokinetic/electrolytic processes and modeling. He holds a B.E. in Civil Engineering from Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan, M.Sc. in Civil Engineering from Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Irbid, Jordan, and a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Dr. Alshawabkeh’s work has been recognized with several awards, including the 2016 CEE Inductee Award, the 2016 NSF Young Investigator Award, and the 2016 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). He is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). Dr. Alshawabkeh is co-founder and President of the International Society for the Study of Contaminated Soils (ISSCS) and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Environmental Science and Technology (IJEST). He is also a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Contaminant Hydrology, Environmental Science & Technology, and Geoenvironmental Engineering.

In addition to his research, Dr. Alshawabkeh is actively involved in community outreach and education. He has served as a member of the board of directors of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and has been involved in numerous outreach programs, including the creation of the “Puerto Rico Test site for Exploring Contamination Threats (PROTECT)” Superfund Research Program (SRP) Center, funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the PI and Director of Center for Research on Early Childhood Exposure and Development in Puerto Rico (CREEC) funded by NIEHS and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As the Director of PROTECT and CREEC, Dr. Alshawabkeh leads a team that includes epidemiologists, engineers, sociologists, biostatisticians, pediatricians, and toxicologists to study environmental and water contamination in Puerto Rico and its effects on preterm birth and adverse pregnancy outcomes to develop prevention and remediation strategies.

Dr. Alshawabkeh is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), a member of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He has served on numerous national and international committees, including the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Advisory Board for the Geosciences and the National Academy of Sciences’ Committee on Geoscience Education.

Dr. Alshawabkeh has made significant contributions to the field of environmental engineering, and his research has helped to advance our understanding of the complex relationships between environmental contaminants and human health. His work has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, and he is widely regarded as a leading expert in the field. He has also been involved in community outreach and education, and his efforts have helped to improve the lives of people in Puerto Rico and beyond.