

# CCEE MONTHLY

The Department of Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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**Structural**



**Geotechnical**



**Water**



**Transportation**



**Environmental**



**Construction**

## AI for Vehicles Workshop at AAAI

Dr. Xianfeng Yang organized a workshop for the 31<sup>st</sup> AAAI (Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence) Conference on February 4, 2017 in San Francisco as the Co-Chair titled "AAAI 2017 Workshop W03: Artificial Intelligence for Connected and Automated Vehicles." The mission of the workshop was to create a synergy among the AI community-including computer vision, cognition, reasoning, learning, planning, and CAV. The three goals of the event were to (1) to identify key AI challenges in CAV systems; (2) to recognize the promising AI solutions to these challenges; and (3) to foster future research in this interdisciplinary subject. You can review more information here: <http://www.aaai.org/Workshops/ws17workshops.php#ws03>

## IECA 2017 Environmental Conference



Undergraduate student **Sheikha Al-Rahbi** attended the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) Environmental Connection Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. It is IECA's premier educational event for the erosion, sediment control, and stormwater industry. Held in February each year, Environmental Connection combines intense, full and half day training courses with topic-focused technical sessions and the largest expo of its kind: <https://www.eventscribe.com/2017/enviroconnect/>  
**Dr. Alicia Kinoshita** is her adviser. Samira was selected as a Student Moderator from the IECA University Program to attend the conference. Her travel was sponsored by our local IECA Chapter. She presented preliminary work on the Alvarado Creek restoration project and the presentation was entitled: "Deriving field based streamflow and stream power in Alvarado creek, San Diego, CA."

## Grants of the Month

**Professor Thomas Zink** received a grant from the ASC Habitat Management for his "San Clemente Island P-704F Project Restoration" in the amount of \$65,735!

## Safe-D UTC Media Hit



One of our local news-channels, CW6 San Diego, featured the federal funding of the University Transportation Center named "Safety through Disruption (SafeD): Goal Zero" in a news segment you can view here: <http://www.cw6sandiego.com/san-diego-state-study-cars-drivers-future/> The article is entitled "San Diego State to study the cars and drivers of the future." **Dr. Sahar Ghanipoor-Machiani**, the director of the program, is featured in the segment as well as a first look at the new driver simulator that will be utilized for the study.

## SDSU Recent Grad Hosts Tour



As part of the Construction Methods (ConE 280) class, **Professor Nensi Lakrori** accompanied students to their first site visit, The San Diego Zoo Mesa Bridge project with General Contractor, Rudolph & Sletten (R&S). The project includes the construction of a 400 ft long pedestrian bridge on top of Panda Canyon and spanning between Elephant Odyssey and Treetops Café. The bridge is a structural truss bridge with a concrete deck. The project also includes a cast-in-place architectural concrete finish elevator and two food kiosks. **Yoshua Newman**, a graduate of the Masters Construction Engineering Program at SDSU, (CONE MS 2014) and the Project Engineer at R&S, facilitated the visit.

## Visiting Masters Student from Peru

**Luis Gustavo Ariza Trelles**; an M.S. candidate at National Engineering University in Lima, Peru; is spending the Spring semester in **Professor Ponce's** Visualab with a full scholarship from his university.

## ASC Student Competition

The Associated Schools of Construction held their annual competition in Sparks, Nevada from February 8-11, 2017. A group of our students attended with **Dr. Thais Alves & Dr. Takis Mitropoulos**. They made up a variety of teams including: Commercial, Electrical, Preconstruction, Virtual Design and Construction, and Heavy Civil. All of the teams represented the school very well and received praise from the evaluators. You can find out more about the competition here (Region 7): <http://asc67.org/teams.html> Congratulations to the team that received placement for the competition: Electrical, which received 3<sup>rd</sup> place for their efforts! Here is the Electrical team from left to right: **Alexander Sherman** (CONE); **Leban Ali** (EE); **Pierre Tumpach** (CONE); **Mikayla Gonzalez** (CONE); **Hannah Garrett** (CONE); and **Ismael Delgado** (CONE).



## Construction & Building Materials Journal

**Dr. Julio Valdes** and an undergraduate researcher student in his Geo-Innovations Research lab, **Luana Varela**, had a paper entitled "Solar bricks for lunar construction" accepted to the Construction and Building Materials Journal. The paper details a novel method for the construction of bricks at the Moon, with lunar soil and with zero net energy cost. This research was sponsored by NSF.

## Publication

**Dr. Alicia Kinoshita** and her student, **Samira Nourbakhshbeidokhti**, are co-authors of a paper entitled: "Effect of storms during drought on post-wildfire recovery of channel sediment dynamics and habitat in the southern California chaparral, USA." You can find it here (published by *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*): <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/esp.4117/full>

**Quotes of the Month:** "Remember that sometimes not getting what you want is a wonderful stroke of luck" – Dalai Lama