

CCEE MONTHLY

The Department of Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5 MAY 2015



Structural Geotechnical Water Transportation Environmental Construction

“Finis coronat opus.” It has been a very successful academic year for 2014-2015. Hats off to all of us who contributed to this result. Our joint water research project “Blue Gold: Mitigating the Effects of Water Scarcity” was selected as a new SDSU Center of Excellence. You can read more about it here: http://aztecgrad.sdsu.edu/gra/aoe_proposal.aspx#bg Congratulations, **Natalie Mladenov** and **Alicia Kinoshita!** We had unprecedented national success at the Reno Competition. We graduated a record number of students in May 2015. We have a new Strategic Plan, and new Bylaws, and we are striving for the best ever ABET review this Fall. We hired excellent new professors. Yes, “the end crowns the work.” We can all be proud of this academic year’s achievements. My special thanks to our entire team!

-Dr. Janusz Supernak, Interim Chair

Engineering Design Day
Capstone/Senior Design Day took place on May 8, 2015 in the Aztec Student Union Center in Montezuma Hall. It is the culminating experience for the undergraduates in the Engineering curriculum. Each project had its own table for the presentation of their work. Every department in the College of Engineering had students participate. It’s always a popular event with such a large turn-out that they had to use the entire Montezuma Hall to display them all! Some of our teams even had Project Sponsors such as the San Diego county Water Authority, NECA San Diego, Flatiron, and many others!

College of Engineering Commencement Ceremony
The event took place on May 16, 2015 in the Viejas Arena at SDSU. Our Civil, Construction, and Environmental students were in attendance and our faculty were excited to support them as they walked in procession to receive their B.S. and M.S. Degrees. We had the highest number of graduates in the College of Engineering with **49 M.S. Degrees**; we were the second highest with the number of undergraduates at **165 B.S. Degrees**; with a grand total of **214 graduates** and undergraduates. Our outstanding Graduates for the year were **Tanner Verhoeks** and **Keith Walsh**. Our Most Influential Faculty member was **Mr. Thomas Zink**. Congratulations to everyone for a wonderful year with CCEE! (pictured: **Dr. Natalie Mladenov, Dr. Thais Alves, & Dr. Alicia Kinoshita**)

Grant for CCEE
Our very own Professor **Thomas Zink** was awarded a grant in the amount of \$48,962 from the DOD Army Corps of Engineers, for “Reagentless Environmental Water Hazard Sensor Research”. Congratulations!

New Construction Lecturer
In addition to our new Transportation Faculty, please help me welcome our new lecturer to our team, **Ms. Nensi Lakrori!** Nensi has her P.E. and is an SDSU alumni. We are very pleased to have such a successful addition to our Department. Welcome!

New Transportation Engineering Faculty!
Please welcome our newest team members to our Department: **Dr. Xianfeng Yang** and **Dr. Sahar Ghanipoor Machiani**. They will be joining our department in August, 2015. **Xianfeng** will receive his Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering from the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, in June, 2015. He received his M.S. also in Transportation Engineering from the same Department in 2011. He earned his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the Department of Civil Engineering, Tsinghua University, in Beijing, China in June, 2009. **Sahar** received her Ph.D. in Transportation Infrastructure and Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA in 2014. She received her M.S. degree in Transportation Engineering from Sharif University of Technology (SUT), Tehran, Iran in 2008 and she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Iran University of Science and Technology (JUST), Tehran, Iran in 2005.



ASCE Annual Pacific Southwest Conference
Our ASCE students and Dr. Janusz Supernak were featured in an Aztec news article called “Cementing a Legacy” The conference is a three day competition where undergraduate and graduate students from 18 different regional universities compete in a variety of challenges. This was Dr. Supernak’s 25th consecutive year leading a team of 78 students from SDSU. You can read the article here: http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/sdsu_newscenter/news_story.aspx?sid=75620

Center of Research: University of Tamaulipas, Tampico, Mexico
Dr. Victor M. Ponce is helping the University of Tamaulipas create a new center of research for the lagoon systems in Tampico, Mexico. And he also reached his 200,000 visitor on his website in May: <http://ponce.sdsu.edu/> Please feel free to visit yourself and see why it’s such a popular site (besides our own ccee.sdsu.edu website, of course!).

- Accolades**
- **Dr. Thais Alves** has been selected as an Outstanding Faculty Adviser for SDSU! She will receive the award on October 16, 2015 during the Provost’s Outstanding Advising Awards Luncheon.
 - **Dr. Natalie Mladenov** has been granted a Grants and Research Enterprise Writing (GREW) Fellowship.
 - **Dr. Alicia Kinoshita** was awarded a “Summer Undergrad Research Award”
 - **Dr. Natalie Mladenov** received a letter from the Chancellor of CSU congratulating her on the grant from the National Science Foundation for her project in Durban, South Africa!
 - **Dr. Natalie Mladenov** received a President’s Leadership fund grant in the amount of \$6,000 for her proposal on “SDSU Water Reuse Lab



Congratulations everyone!

Quote of the Month: “Finis coronat opus” (The end crowns the work) –Latin proverb

