

CCEE MONTHLY

The Department of Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering



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Structural

Geotechnical

Water

Transportation

Environmental

Construction

The Fall 2015 semester has begun and the campus is busy with new and returning students. We have two new full time faculty members to welcome to our team: **Dr. Sahar Machiani** and **Dr. Xianfeng Yang**. **Dr. Xianfeng Yang's** focus is Transportation and his main areas of study are traffic control and a Transportation Center. **Dr. Sahar Machiani's** focus is also Transportation and her main areas of research are driver behavior and signal systems. Please be sure to welcome them to SDSU! Also, just a reminder about the construction for our new EIS (Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences) Complex, parking spots and labs have been moved and sidewalks have been blocked next to our Engineering building. The construction is expected to be completed in 2017. If you need to see where the new labs are located, please take a look at our **July** newsletter, which you can find here: www.ccee.sdsu/monthlynewsletter

Outstanding Advising Award:

Our very own **Dr. Thais Alves** received a Provost's Outstanding Academic Adviser Award for 2015! This award acknowledges faculty, staff, and peer advisers who provide outstanding advising to our SDSU students. Our students are always grateful for her thoughtful attention and encouragement. Please be sure to congratulate her! If you'd like to know more about Dr. Alves please visit her website here: <http://alves.sdsu.edu/>



CCEE Grants:

-Dr. Robert Dowell received a \$1.5 million award for 2 multi-year projects which will study ship safety & durability from NASCO

-Dr. Thais Alves has been awarded a \$1500 grant from the Center of Teaching & Learning to support development and introduction of teaching innovations in her courses

Publication announcement:

-Dr. Julio Valdes along with his student **Pouya Golshan** and his co-workers **Francois Guillard**, **Luming Shen**, and **Itai Einav**, have published an article on Brittle Granular Media in the physics journal *Nature Physics*.

Brazil Scientific Mobility Program

We had a wonderful time hosting our international students from Brazil and hope they enjoyed their experience working with our faculty and the different areas of study that was offered. We would like to recognize their achievements by noting a few of their names and projects in this newsletter:

Dr. Thais Alves student's:

Gustavo Ferreira - Website on Visual Management in Construction Projects.

Lia Ribeiro - Virtual Design and Construction and Field Operations.

Deborah Chan - Educational Simulation of Supplier Quality Surveillance in Engineering-Procure-Construct Projects.

Camila Figueredo - Website on Comparison of Sustainability Rating Systems in Construction Projects.

Dr. Natalie Mladenov's student:

Eliana Capitanio: Use of fluorescence spectroscopy in rhodamine tracer dye analysis.

Dr. Victor Miquel Ponce students:

Luiza Borba de Farias & Glenda Machado Dias: projects for the Visualab in Tierra del Sol, CA; the White Range, Peru; and the Pantanal of Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Dr. Julio Valdes students:

Luana V. Miranda: Manufacturing bricks with solar radiation.

Gabriela G. Medeiros: Unravelling the spectral signatures of crushing sands.

Lorena M. Dutra: Monitoring interconnectivity shifts during compaction of granular mixtures.

SDSU 360 Magazine Interview

Dr. Natalie Mladenov was interviewed for an article published for the Fall 2015 issue. The title of the magazine is "Sea Change: New Thinking for a Blue Planet" and the article is called: "Plugging the Leaks" which is about the drought that is affecting San Diego's water system. You can find the article here: <http://advancement.sdsu.edu/marcomm/360/PDFs/index.html>

Outstanding Graduate Feature

For the month of July, we featured one of our 2015 Outstanding Graduates. For this issue, we would like to showcase our selection for August. Selection of the Outstanding Graduate is done by vote of



the CCEE faculty. For the month of August, we featured **Keith Walsh**. Read his biography about his education here: <http://ccee.sdsu.edu/cccecurrentevents.php>

Additional Grants for CCEE:

-Professor Thomas Zink received another grant from the DOD Army Corps of Engineers in the amount of \$268,365 for "Dune Enhancement and Nesting Site Preparation to Support the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover at Naval Air Station North Island and the Silver Strand Training Complex, Naval Base Coronado, CA"

-Dr. Temesgen Garoma has received a grant from the California Energy Commission in the amount of \$611,346 for a project with a duration of 3 years. The goal of the project is "to develop an energy-efficient and cost-effective algae cells disruption process for enhancing lipids extraction, hence increasing algae biodiesel yield." Additionally, Dr. Beyene from the Mechanical Engineering department and Dr. Balsdon from the department of Economics are CO-PIs on the project.

Quotes of the Month: "Scientists study the world as it is; engineers create the world that has never been" – Theodore Von Karman