

Message from the Chair



UNM Civil Engineering had a very exciting Spring 2015 semester. The semester started with our students winning national recognition in the Home Builders National Competition in Las Vegas. Our Construction Management Program also received national accolades and was granted a six-year renewed accreditation by ACCE. Dr. Arup Maji was honored for career achievements and was selected as Associate Fellow of the AIAA. We were privileged to host the ASCE Rocky Mountain Regional Conference competing in steel bridge and concrete canoe. Over 400 guests joined us on campus with great enthusiasm and collegiality sponsored by the department's industrial friends.

Mahmoud Taha, Professor & Chair
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Construction Management Program Receives Six-Year Accreditation

At the February 2015 Mid-Year Meeting, the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) reviewed the application for renewal of accreditation from the Construction Management Program at UNM. The Board reviewed reports from its Visiting Team under the Chairmanship of Dr. David Batie, and its Accreditation Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. John Schaufelberger. The ACCE Board approved the six-year accreditation of the Department's Construction Management Program from February 2015–February 2021.

CIVIL ENGINEERING Hosts

ASCE Rocky Mountain Regional Conference

The 44th Annual American Society of Civil Engineers Rocky Mountain Regional Conference, hosted this year by the UNM Student Chapter, was April 9th–11th. Fourteen universities from South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico participated in events including the steel bridge and concrete canoe. The steel bridge event was in Johnson Auxiliary Gym on UNM campus, fitted with 104 sheets of plywood for the 20 ft long bridges, which were constructed and loaded with 2,500 pounds of steel. The concrete canoe races were at Cochiti Lake on April 11th and while some of the canoes sunk, UNM's didn't! The awards banquet, held at Embassy Suites, went smoothly with UNM Civil Engineering Professor Dr. Bogus-Halter as MC, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Ken Rainwater from Texas Tech University. UNM's team shared first place in the Mystery Design competition and took home second in Predisign. Utah State University took first place, followed by New Mexico State University.



Student team has assembled the steel bridge in preparation for the competition.

52nd Annual Paving and Transportation Conference

The Civil Engineering Department successfully organized the 52nd Paving and Transportation Conference January 5–6 at the Marriott Pyramid North Hotel and Convention Center, Albuquerque. Under the theme "Climate Change and Sustainability of Transportation Infrastructures", the conference was co-chaired by CE professors Rafi Tarefder and Percy Ng. Topics such as paving and transportation issues related to climate and



weather extremes were presented. More than 600 participants, from New Mexico and the southwest, included transportation planners, engineers, administrators, and policymakers from public and private sectors as well as participants from Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories. The conference attracted most of the largest transportation contractors, consulting engineering firms, and other related transportation businesses and industries in the state of New Mexico.

Upcoming Events:

- 2015 APA-NM and ASCE-NM Statewide Conference September 23–25
- 2nd Annual BIM Summit mid-to-late September 2015
- 53rd Annual Paving & Transportation Conference January 4–5, 2016



The UNM Center for Water and the Environment, the City of Albuquerque and the private company RWL Water, organized and sponsored the Southwest Water and Energy Summit on April 22, 2015. The summit was moderated by Dr. Kerry Howe, Associate Professor in Civil Engineering, and held in the Rotunda Room of the UNM Science & Technology Park, 801 University Blvd. SE. The room was filled to capacity, with about 160 attendees. The summit explored water challenges in public water and wastewater utilities; water challenges in the agriculture and dairy industries;

water challenges in the oil, gas, mining, and power industries; technological solutions to water challenges; and legal constraints to water challenges. Speakers included representatives from state government, the national labs, and the universities in New Mexico. Each panel session was followed by questions and discussion from the audience. The summit was part of the increasing emphasis on water and environmental research and education in the CE Department that started with the formation of the Center for Water and the Environment in 2013.

National Association of Home Builders Award

Congratulations to Dr. Mark Russell, our UNM Team Advisor, and our Construction Management and Civil Engineering students for winning two major National Awards in the National Association of Home Builders Competition in Las Vegas held in January. The first Award is for our Construction Management student Albert Villascas, who won the National Association of Home Builders - Outstanding Student Award.

The second Award is for our UNM Team which was awarded the Rookie of the Year Award in the Residential Construction Management Competition involving over 35 top construction management schools in the country. Again, a big congratulations to our Construction Management and Civil Engineering students and to Dr. Mark Russell for their great efforts and work and the very well-deserved national recognition.

New Faculty Member Joins Department

The Department will welcome a new faculty member on August 10th, Dr. Fernando Moreu, PE, Assistant Professor in Structures. His research interests include structural dynamics, structural health monitoring, wireless smart sensors, railroad bridges, infrastructure management, real-time performance monitoring, and structures design and construction. Dr. Moreu received his BS in



Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Granada in Spain and his MS and PhD degrees in Structural Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has been a visiting scholar in China, Italy, and Illinois, as a teaching assistant, lecturer, and student mentor. In addition, his industry experience includes eleven years working as a structural engineer for ESCA Consultants, Inc., in Urbana, Illinois. Publications range from refereed journals, magazines, reports, conference proceedings, papers and posters at professional meetings, and technical seminars. The ASCE Illinois Central Section recognized him as 2010 Young Engineer of the Year.

Dr. Arup Maji has been selected as Associate Fellow of the AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics).

Dr. Mahmoud Taha has been named as Chair of ACI Committee on Polymers and Adhesives in Concrete.

Dr. Rafiqul Tarefder, Professor of Civil Engineering, received the "John Booker Excellence Medal," a prestigious international award presented by the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG).

Mesbah Ahmed, a PhD student studying under Dr. Rafiqul Tarefder, has received the Doctoral Conference Presentation Award from the Office of Graduate Studies.



For the second consecutive year, graduate student **Elisa Borowski** has been awarded a graduate research fellowship from the New Mexico

Space Grant Consortium, a program administered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In addition, she is one of 16 students, chosen from 150 applicants, who will intern full-time this summer at Sandia Labs in the Solid Mechanics and Shock Physics Group.

Dr. Kerry Howe has been awarded the School of Engineering Harrison Faculty Excellence Award for his superior accomplishments and service to SOE.

Dr. Mark Russell has been awarded the SOE Junior Faculty Teaching Award.

Rebekah Lucero, Accountant II, has been chosen as the Outstanding Staff Member in the School of Engineering.

CE Facts at a Glance

Number of Faculty	19
Number of Undergrads	122
Number of Grad Sts	109
Number of Adjuncts	9

Annual Research Expenditures
FY 2014–2015 \$4.5 Million

CIVIL ENGINEERING

Sustainable Infrastructure Systems — Improving the Quality of Life