

# CEE @ Illinois



News from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



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## [CEE Breaks Ground on New Student Center](#)

The department officially broke ground on the M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Student Center in Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory in April with a ceremony in the Newmark Lab crane bay. The Yeh Center will be a 20,500-square-foot addition to Newmark Lab that will be entirely student-focused. New classrooms, a conference room, meeting rooms for student groups, and a spacious atrium for informal gathering are all part of the design. The goal is to improve the student experience by providing CEE students with a designated "home" on campus where they can attend class, hold meetings, study, collaborate on projects, and meet informally. [More on the groundbreaking](#)



## [Rail Transportation and Engineering Center Established at Illinois](#)

Building on its strong academic and research programs in rail engineering and transport, the University of Illinois has established the Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC). The announcement came at a major international rail conference held at U of I in April that featured high-speed and intercity passenger rail as its primary focus. The establishment of RailTEC acknowledges the expanding importance of rail transportation to the economy, to society and to a safe and sustainable environment. The center is committed to further growth and development of its teaching and research activities in support of the nation's need for talented young minds and new technologies in the rail industry. [More on RailTEC](#)



## [Mid-America Earthquake Center Presents to FEMA, State Disaster Response Planners](#)

Earthquake preparedness plans in eight central states are being designed around the results of a comprehensive study by the Mid-America Earthquake Center (MAE Center) on the effects of a major earthquake in the region. More than 150 people with responsibility for disaster planning at the state and federal levels tuned in April 26 to a nationwide video teleconference to see MAE Center researchers present the final report on their New Madrid Catastrophic Planning Project. The \$4 million study was contracted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve understanding of the consequences of a major earthquake along the New Madrid Fault. [More about the MAE Center report](#)



## [Professor Imad Al-Qadi Named Distinguished Member of ASCE](#)

Professor Imad Al-Qadi has been elected a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). A distinguished member is one who has made legendary contributions to civil engineering and achieved eminence in his or her branch of engineering or field. Al-Qadi

was recognized for his extraordinary research and technical contributions in pavement engineering, modeling, rehabilitation technologies, pavement interlayer systems, asphaltic mixtures, transportation infrastructure sensing, and ground penetrating radar, and for his exemplary leadership in professional service and technology transfer. [More about Al-Qadi](#)



### [Professor Youssef Hashash Leading Major ASCE Geotechnical Workshop](#)

Professor Youssef Hashash of the geotechnical engineering area is chair of Earth Retention 3 (ER2010), an American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) specialty conference sponsored by the Earth Retaining Structures Committee of ASCE's Geo-Institute. The conference will be held August 1-4 in Bellevue, Wash. Aimed at providing practical, immediately applicable information for practitioners, the conference is held every 20 years to share changes in design and construction practices for earth retaining structures and draws hundreds of geotechnical engineering professionals from around the world. [More on ER2010](#)



### [Associate Professor Khaled El-Rayes to Receive ASCE Best Journal Paper Award](#)

Associate Professor Khaled El-Rayes has been selected to receive the Best Journal Paper Award of 2009 from the American Society of Civil Engineers' Journal of Construction Engineering and Management. The paper, co-written with Wallied Orabi, Ahmed B. Senouci and Hassan Al-Derham, is entitled, Optimizing Postdisaster Reconstruction Planning for Damaged Transportation Networks. It presents the development of a robust model for planning post-disaster reconstruction efforts. The work appeared in the October 2009 issue of the journal and was selected from among 143 papers published in the journal last year. [More about El-Rayes](#)




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