



NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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Scientists to study human impact on Midwest environment with new NSF-funded observatory

As humans modify the earth's landscape to suit their purposes, their activities can have far-reaching effects on the environment. Of particular concern to those who study these effects is the region from the top of the plant canopy to the bedrock beneath. This area—called the critical zone—is now a special focus for scientists, thanks to a National Science Foundation initiative to study human impact on the environment through a network of nine instrumented locations across the country called Critical Zone Observatories (CZOs). [More about the initiative](#)

Benito Mariñas named interim department head

Professor Benito Mariñas has been named as interim head of the CEE Department after the departure of former department head Professor Amr S. Elnashai. Mariñas' new position became effective January 6, 2014. Mariñas has been a faculty member in CEE since 1995. He holds an Ivan Racheff Professorship of Environmental Engineering. He has played several important leadership roles in CEE, including serving twice as chair of the Environmental Engineering and Science Program and chairing the department-wide faculty search committee for three years. [More about Mariñas](#)



MAE Center relaunched with new, multi-hazard focus

A broader range of natural and human-made hazards is the new focus of the recently revitalized MAE Center, a 17-year-old research center headquartered within CEE at Illinois. Previously geared toward solely earthquake engineering research, the center now derives its acronym, MAE, from its new Multi-hazard Approach to Engineering. [More about the MAE Center](#)



ICT researchers developing tool to evaluate wide-base tires' effects on pavement

Researchers at the Illinois Center for Transportation are developing an advanced 3-D modeling tool to help state agencies and highway construction materials engineers evaluate the effects of new-generation wide-base tires on existing pavements and to provide guidance about their use without the need for actual road testing.

[More on wide-base tires](#)



Paulino wins 2014 Belytschko Award

Professor Glaucio H. Paulino has won the 2014 Ted Belytschko Applied Mechanics Award from the ASME Applied Mechanics Division. The Ted Belytschko Applied Mechanics Award is given to an outstanding individual for significant contributions in the practice of engineering mechanics; contributions may result from innovation, research, design, leadership or education. [Read more about Paulino](#)



Al-Qadi named president of ASCE's Transportation and Development Institute

CEE Professor Imad Al-Qadi was recently named the next president of the American Society of Civil Engineers Transportation and Development Institute (T&DI). In his new role, he plans to enhance the interaction between T&DI and academia, industry and other transportation stakeholders and to continue the focus on growing T&DI's Younger Members Group. [More on the appointment](#)



Illinois THE conference celebrates milestone

The 100th Illinois Transportation and Highway Engineering conference (THE) will take place on campus March 25-26 with pre-conference activities, including short courses, offered on March 24. To celebrate this milestone, this year's conference website includes some historical information and archival photos. [Read more about](#)



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