



## *Welcome from the Department Head*

Mississippi State's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department proactively uses teaching, research, and service to educate baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral students. We feel the first, best calling of our students is to become Professional Engineers by becoming competent, dynamic, and ethical engineers of the future. This E-newsletter is our effort to share a snippet of a few of the achievements we have made during this higher education journey.

## Announcing the Richard A. Rula Civil and Environmental Engineering Complex

The design of the Richard A. Rula building, the future home of Mississippi State University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is quickly approaching completion. Eley Guild Hardy Architects, in partnership with EYP Inc., have received final approval from Mississippi's Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) for the Design and Development recommendations, and in the process of finalizing the construction documents for the new "Civil and Environmental Engineering Complex."

The complex is currently expected to be over 80,000 square feet with a high bay infrastructure research laboratory and a larger, flexible "maker space" for student instruction are cornerstones of this new, state-of-the-art university facility. The Rula Building will include connect classrooms supporting the university's nationally-ranked distance education program. Dedicated research and teaching labs are included which support the department's technical strengths in the areas of construction, environmental, geotechnical, materials, structural, transportation, and water resources engineering, as well as space to support the chemistry instructional needs of the university.



The new home for the department, the complex will include administrative and student offices, conference rooms and library for CEE. Student project and research program staging and storage spaces will be integrated into the facility. Student gathering spaces, secure student project meeting rooms, and student organization space have been incorporated in strategic ways which enhance the functionality of the design.

Currently, the anticipated total cost of the project is \$32 million. About half of the cost of this facility will come from alumni and friends (<http://www.cee.msstate.edu/building-donors/>). Construction of the facility is expected to start in summer 2018. Fund raising for facility enhancements and augmentation of laboratory equipment is underway. Donations of books for the library, and equipment for the research space are also being accepted. These gifts can be coordinated through the department or the MSU Foundation. To add your name to the list of contributors, visit <http://www.cee.msstate.edu/giving/>.

You can also give to the department's development programs at the same website. These gifts help support student activities (attend conferences, build team projects, and promote the profession), faculty development (present research at conferences, new faculty start-up) and special department projects (replace or add to our teaching and research equipment inventory, student recruiting). Last year's donors' names are available at [http://www.cee.msstate.edu/cee\\_donors/](http://www.cee.msstate.edu/cee_donors/).



## **Congratulations to our recent graduates on their USAF Commissions!**



Adam Grimes, Michael Walsleben, and Trevor Williams (from left to right) were commissioned into the USAF at Mississippi State University on December 15, 2017.

The Civil and Environmental Engineering department would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to three of our recent graduates. In addition to graduating from the department with their BSCE in December 2017, Adam Grimes, Michael Walsleben, and Trevor Williams were all commissioned as Lieutenants in the United States Air Force on December 15th.

LT Walsleben will be moving to Cheyenne, Wyoming to work in civil engineering at F.E. Warren Air Force Base. Both LT Grimes and LT Williams will be starting Undergraduate Pilot Training. LT Grimes will be stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, and LT Williams will be stationed at Columbus Air Force Base in nearby Columbus, MS.

We wish them the best of luck going forward with their careers, and would like to thank them for their service.



## **Sarah McEwen has been named one of ASCE's New Faces of Civil Engineering**

ASCE has named Sarah McEwen, P.E., A.M.ASCE as one of their New Faces of Civil Engineering. ASCE chooses ten professionals and ten college students each year who they believe are outstanding in the field. She is being inducted as a professional member.

Sarah graduated summa cum laude with her BS in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University in 2013, although her introduction to the University dates back to when she was still in high school. Sarah was one of the participants of the Bagley College of Engineering's QUEST program; a summer research program for rising high school seniors. QUEST allows students a chance to work in a research laboratory on campus with professors. In her case, the QUEST experience she received was one of the major influences in helping her decide to study Civil Engineering, as she worked in the research labs on a project with Dr. Isaac Howard, P.E.

While at MSU, she was active in the ASCE student chapter, serving as a concrete canoe captain and helping lead the team to the national races in Illinois her senior year. She also worked as an undergraduate research intern in the Construction Materials Research Center (CMRC) research facilities. During this period, she worked one again with Dr. Howard on the development of sustainable building materials.

Since graduating, Sarah has become very experienced in hydrology and hydraulics as related to bridge and roadway design and construction. She has managed projects and designed hydraulic models for MDOT projects and roadways while working at Waggoner Engineering. She continues this work in her current position as the Water Resource Manager at AECOM.





## Welcome Back Class of 1968!

The department's Class of 1968 are planning a 50th Reunion this fall. A small planning committee has been organized to make arrangements; Randy Sherard (Redwood, MS), Elliott Dubuisson (Starkville, MS), Tom Bryant (Olive Branch, MS), and Mel Chapman (Wylie, TX).

The department is helping with the planning and arrangements for the reunion to be held the weekend of September 14, 15, and 16, 2018. These dates coincide with the Ragin' Cajuns versus MSU Bulldogs home football game. Activities are to include: Tour of the campus, the current Civil and Environmental Engineering Facilities, an overview and site visit of the new CEE Complex, tour of the Grant Presidential Library, John Grisham archives, Templeton Museum, and much more. There will be a tailgate before the football game and tickets to attend it.

For more information on this reunion, contact: Mel Chapman (melman651@gmail.com, 214.585.3670) or Randy Sherard at (annsherard@toast.net, 601.638.2935).

If your class would like to do something similar to this, contact the CEE Department for assistance.



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