



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™ CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



The programs provided by the Richard A. Rula School of Civil & Environmental Engineering at MSU proactively employ teaching research and service to educate baccalaureate, masters and doctoral students. Our goal is for our graduates to become creative, socially responsible, ethical professionals ready for a dynamic engineering career meeting the needs of the 21st Century.

The e-newsletter is our effort to share a snippet of a few of the activities, achievements and recognitions we have made during this higher education journey.

It is also our collection wish for you and yours to remain safe in this time of pandemic and that the holiday season approaching is one filled with joyous wonderment.



HAPPY Holidays

Wishing you
peace and joy
as we continue to advance
Civil & Environmental Engineering at
Mississippi State University



**RICHARD A. RULA SCHOOL OF
CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

Richard A. Rula endows Civil & Environmental Engineering

Through the continued support of Richard A. Rula, a 1970 CEE alumnus and long-time leader in the state's construction industry, we have become:

The Richard A. Rula School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Richard is owner and president of Hemphill Construction Company Inc., and principle of other construction related ventures in Gulf States region. A lead gift from Richard, along with substantial private support, makes possible our new \$34 million campus facility. Due to be occupied this spring, the 70,000+ square foot Richard A. Rula Engineering and Science Complex will house classrooms and student project space, administrative and faculty offices, laboratories supporting teaching and research, and high bay infrastructure facility. The research area in the new structure is being equipped with a wide array of new equipment which will help faculty stay on the leading edge of new technologies and support economic development in Mississippi, while training future engineering leaders in key fields to provide clean water, safe roads, proper sanitation and quality buildings.

One of eight academic units in the Bagley College of Engineering, the Richard A. Rula School of Civil and Environmental Engineering enrolls some 570 undergraduate and 90 graduate students. Degree programs include a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, both with seven technical options. U.S. News and World Report ranks the Bagley College's programs among the top 100 nationwide. The college also ranks among the nation's leaders in research and development expenditures according to the National Science Foundation. For more on the Bagley College, visit <https://www.bagley.msstate.edu/>.

To learn more about this gift, please see that article by Amy Cagle published at: <https://www.msstate.edu/newsroom/article/2020/10/rula-endows-msu-civil-and-environmental-engineering-school>



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West Brothers Construction is wrapping up the Richard A. Rula Engineering & Science Complex. Move in during spring 2021.

Photo by Megan Bean

*The spotlight is on our very own
School Director, Dr. Dennis D. Truax*

Congratulations to Dr. Dennis Truax on being elected ASCE President 2022. He was also selected by ASCE to receive the 2020 Edmund Friedman Professional Recognition Award and was inducted into the ASCE Region 5 Wall of Fame.



*Dr. Isaac Howard
“Engineering Online Success”*



Please take a moment to read Dr. Isaac Howard’s article “Engineering Online Success” in Alumnus Magazine’s Summer 2020 Edition
<http://www.alumnus.msstate.edu/summer20/>
(pages 16-17)

Congratulations to Dr. Isaac Howard on been selected by the American Society of Civil Engineers to receive the 2021 Henry L. Michel Award for Industry Advancement of Research.

*Dr. V. Ganeswar Gude
takes a seat*



Congratulations to
Dr. V. Ganeswar Gude on being selected by Mississippi State University’s Provost to receive the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Endowed Chair in Civil & Environmental Engineering



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***CEE Alumnus, Dr. Ben Cox
2020
Young Engineer of the Year***



Dr. Ben Cox is a MSU graduate who obtained his Bachelors, Masters & Ph.D. in Civil Engineering. Dr. Cox was involved in ASCE throughout this years at MSU and continues to be after graduating in 2015.

His involvement includes several peer-reviewed publications in ASCE journals. He is now an associate member of the ASCE Transportation & Development Institute Airfield Pavement Committee. Dr. Cox is also a researcher in the Airfields & Pavements Branch.

Congratulations Dr. Ben Cox on being chosen as 2020 Young Engineer of the Year!

<http://sections.asce.org/mississippi/young-engineer-year-award>

***CEE Alumnus,
Jacob Forrester, P.E.
2020 Engineer of the Year***



Jacob Forrester is a MSU graduate who obtained his Bachelors and Masters in Civil Engineering. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in Public Policy & Administration.

Jacob has worked with Calvert-Spradling Engineers in West Point, MS as a undergraduate and as a professional. He worked at MSU from 2014-2017 when he became the Assistant Manager of Starkville Utilities.

Jacob Forrester became involved in ASCE as a student at MSU in 2007. He held many positions during his time at MSU and is now the 2020 Report Card for Mississippi's Infrastructure.

Join us as we congratulate Jacob Forrester on being chosen as the 2020 Engineer of the Year!

<https://www.pepls.ms.gov/2020-03/jacob-forrester-pe-named-asce-mississippi-section-engineer-year>

***Jessica V. Lewis, CEE Senior, Recognized
2020 ASCE MS Section Civil Engineering Student of the Year
&
2020-2021 Shelly Brock Watson Student Scholarship Winner***



Jessica V. Lewis is a New Orleans, LA, native that chose to see what Mississippi State had to offer and became a Bulldog a few years ago. Now in her senior year, she is one of our undergraduate research assistant working on projects in our Construction Materials Research Center.

Previously she has been recognized as an AIF Kirk Scholar by the Asphalt Institute Foundation and awarded the Ergon Foundation Scholarship administered by the National Asphalt Pavement Association.

Her most recent recognitions are acknowledgments of her scholarship, research success, and involvement with the student community. Her plans are to continue her education, pursuing a MSCE and possibly a PhD following graduation with her BSCE.

Congratulations Jessica on your many accomplishments and we trust and



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