



Message from the Chair

Greetings friends, students, and alumni:

Many changes have occurred within the department over the last few years since the last department newsletter. So, this letter will catch you up and cover items that have occurred during the last four years. First and foremost, the department is sporting a new name, the “Department of Construction Engineering and Engineering Technology.” Early in the summer of 2009, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a proposal requesting to convert the existing Construction Engineering Technology program (CTEC) to the first Construction Engineering (ConE) program in the State of Texas. With the final approval obtained early in June 2009, the ConE program accepted 36 new ConE majors the first summer, with the current ConE enrollment growing to approximately 190.



Burkett

The new ConE program is off to a great start and its success will support the long-term stability of the construction program at Texas Tech by bringing the mission and direction of the department into a better alignment with that of the university and the college. With the first ConE degree awarded in December of 2011, the Construction Engineering program is available to apply for accreditation with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC). The ConE accreditation visit is scheduled for the fall of 2012. This change in direction of the program has allowed the department to attract and retain some outstanding faculty and students who have distinguished themselves in many ways. Details of their accomplishments will be recognized below.

During the ConE program development and transition phase, similar consideration was given to develop and convert the mechanical (MTEC) and electrical/electronics (EET) technology options into a combined engineering program as well. However, the existence of similar engineering programs already within the college made this task difficult. Ultimately the decision was made to phase out the MTEC and EET options and to develop a second construction emphasis. The first and primary construction curriculum has an emphasis from a general contractor’s perspective and the secondary curriculum has an emphasis from a mechanical/electrical subcontractor’s perspective.

Our undergraduate students continue to maintain the program’s good reputation in industry as established through the years by our outstanding alumni. With the high quality faculty hired by the department and the new focus on research by the university, the need for graduate students and graduate courses has become more apparent. In the 2011-2012 academic year, approval was obtained to offer a graduate certificate in construction engineering and management, which requires successful completion of 12 credit hours of ConE graduate courses. This will help provide the department faculty better access to graduate students and will lay the groundwork for a master’s degree in construction in the not too distant future.

As the construction program and the cost of education have continued to grow over the last few years, so has the opportunity for the department to provide financial support to our students through departmental scholarships. There are currently eight endowed scholarships funded by generous friends and alumni of the department. These scholarships have \$20,000 - \$25,000 in funds available to award each year to students in \$1,000 or \$2,000 increments, allowing us to award roughly 15 scholarships each year.

There are a lot of exciting things happening in the department and the future looks bright. There are several ways for you to be a part of what is going on today and make a positive impact on the department, our students, and the industry that we serve. There are opportunities to serve on our Industrial Advisory Board, contribute to an existing or new scholarship fund, become a “Partners in Excellence,” or recruit our student interns or graduates. If you would like more information about any of these opportunities, check out our website at www.ceet.ttu.edu, give us a call, send us an email, or just drop by the campus and the office. We would love to hear from you or see you at any time.



Design/Build Division Competition Team at the Associated Schools of Construction, Region V Student Competition

CEET Students Place in ASC/TEXO Region V Student Competition

Every spring semester, students from the construction program at Texas Tech participate in the Associated Schools of Construction, Region V Student Competition held in Dallas and sponsored by TEXO. Awards are presented for first, second, and third places in each of the three competition divisions, Heavy/Civil, Design/Build, and Commercial Building. During the competition, each team makes an oral presentation to the judging panel. Speaking awards are presented to individual speakers from each of the three competition divisions.

At the 2011 competition, Colt R. Crumrine received third place in the Heavy/Civil Division Individual Best Presenter event. The Design/Build Competition Team won second place. This team was led by Dr. Tewodros Ghebrab, an assistant professor, and the team included John Eichelberger, Jason Gafford, Stephanie Bunt, Hayden Haskell, Samuel Balunda, and Scott Kahler.

William R. (Randy) Burkett, Ph.D., P.E.
Professor and Department Chair

Student News

Groves Named Young-Adult Humanitarian Champion

Joshua A. Groves, a senior construction engineering major, was named the 2011 Young-Adult Humanitarian Champion by the South Plains Regional Chapter of the American Red Cross.



Groves

Groves received this award for his compassion and commitment to the people of Haiti following the catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010.

Since the earthquake, he has made multiple trips to Haiti and spent thousands of dollars of his personal funds traveling to Haiti to work on construction projects focused on providing improved living conditions for an orphanage.

In addition, Groves helped found the Texas Tech Student Coalition for International Development (SCID). SCID is a student-led organization focused on helping others get involved in service opportunities around the world.



Groves and his team of volunteers work to improve living conditions at an orphanage in Haiti



Clark and Fisher Receive National AGC Scholarships

Marshall Clark, a construction engineering major, was recently selected to receive the Tom and Mary Kay Steele Scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic school year.



Clark

Matthew Fisher, a construction engineering major, was recently selected to receive the G.E. Byrne Memorial Scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic school year.

These are \$2,500 scholarships from The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America and its national AGC Education and Research Foundation. The AGC Education and Research Foundation offers undergraduate and graduate level scholarships to students enrolled in ABET or ACCE-accredited construction management or construction related engineering programs. Over \$8 million in scholarships have been awarded to more than 3,000 students attending colleges and universities.

Clark and Fisher both serve the Whitacre College of Engineering as Engineering Ambassadors.

Department Recognizes Outstanding Students

Each semester, all of the graduating seniors for that semester are considered by the faculty to be nominated for the department's Outstanding Student Award.

The faculty consider GPA, character, leadership, and overall contributions to the department. The faculty nominees are then interviewed by the CEET Industrial Advisory Board, who selects which nominee they believe to be the most outstanding student from that graduating class.

The winners for 2011-2012 academic year were:

Spring 2012
Jenson Raley-Whitaker

Fall 2011
Hunter Massucci



Raley-Whitaker



Massucci



New Faculty

Assistant Professor Dr. Tewodros Ghebrab

Dr. Tewodros Ghebrab joined the CEET faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor in August 2009 after working as a project engineer in the structural design and analysis area in industry.

He earned a Ph.D. in civil engineering with an emphasis on structures from Michigan State University in 2008, a Master of Science in civil engineering with an emphasis on structures from the University of New South Wales in 1996, and a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia in 1992.

He has a strong background in structures in academia and industry and is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas.

His research interests include the performance of cement based materials under adverse environments, the effects of admixtures on the structure-property relationships of cement based materials, and the effect of fire on concrete structures.



Ghebrab

Assistant Professor Dr. Sangwook Lee

Dr. Sangwook Lee joined the CEET faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor in July 2008.

He earned a Ph.D. in civil engineering in 2005 and a Master of Science in civil engineering in 2000 from Purdue University in the Division of Construction Engineering and Management.

His dissertation was titled, "Digital Color Image Processing System for Civil Infrastructure Health Assessment and Monitoring."

He also earned a Bachelor of Science in architecture in 1999 from Chung-Ang University in South Korea.

Lee holds an E.I.T. status in Ohio.

His research interests include the applications of emerging technology for more efficient infrastructure management, bidding strategies and mark-up decisions, development of construction warranties for better maintenance of built environments, green or sustainable construction, and safety performance evaluations for underground construction.



Lee

Assistant Professor Dr. Ali Nejat

Dr. Ali Nejat joined the CEET faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor in August 2011, after graduating for Texas A&M University with a Ph.D. in civil engineering with a focus on construction engineering and management.

His dissertation was titled, "Modeling Dynamics of Post Disaster Recovery."

Nejat also earned a Master of Science in civil engineering in 2003 and a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering in 1999 from universities in Iran.

His research interests include: dynamics of reconstruction, multi-agent system modeling, project delivery systems and risk management, and building information modeling.

In addition, he worked on many transportation-based research projects during his studies at Texas A&M.



Nejat

STEM Outreach

Darwish Receives Grant for STEM Outreach

Dr. Mukkades Darwish, associate professor of construction engineering and engineering technology, along with other investigators, received a grant from the Greater Texas Foundation that has the potential to have large impacts on STEM outreach and education in the State of Texas.



Darwish

The project, titled Middle School Math and Science Project (MS2), aims to develop a program to help middle school teachers to be better prepared to teach mathematics and sciences courses, with the ultimate goal being to better prepare the students to enter engineering and science programs when they reach college.

The grant provides up to 100 participating teachers with a laptop computer and pay tuition and fees, as well as housing during their face-to-face summer coursework. Some students will complete a Master of Science degree in Multidisciplinary Science with an emphasis in the integration of math and science for middle school students.



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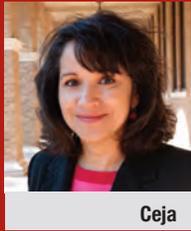
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Department News

Ceja Named Recipient of Top Techsan Award

Margie Ceja, undergraduate advisor in the department, has been selected to receive a Top Techsan Award during the 2012 homecoming activities from the Texas Tech Alumni Association.

Selections for the Top Techsan Award are made based on completed nomination forms that emphasize extraordinary work proficiency and an attitude of team spirit within the Texas Tech family. Only full-time, non-faculty employees are eligible for consideration; they must have had two or more years of service with the university.



Ceja

Dr. Ronald Pigott Retires

Dr. Ronald Pigott, professor of engineering technology, retired in May 2011 after 20 years of service at Texas Tech.

He and his wife have made plans to ride off into the sunset in their RV to have fun with friends and family.

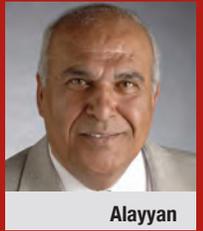


Pigott

In Memoriam: Professor Sudqi H. Alayyan

Sudqi H. Alayyan, associate professor of engineering technology, passed away in June 2011 in Lubbock, Texas. He was 68 years old.

Alayyan began working as a lecturer in the Department of Engineering Technology at Texas Tech in 1978, where he was awarded tenure and made associate professor in 2001. He served as coordinator and undergraduate advisor until his retirement in 2010. In 2011, he was awarded the title of associate professor emeritus.



Alayyan

Bobby Jones Retires

Bobby Jones, department laboratory technician, retired in May 2012 after more than 11 years in the department.

He left the lab at Texas Tech to make wood camping furniture in his woodshop near Petersburg, Texas.



Jones

Keeping in Touch

The Texas Tech Department of Construction Engineering and Engineering Technology would like to know what is happening in your professional life. Visit the following website to update your information or let us know about your accomplishments: www.coe.ttu.edu/info