

Department of Civil Engineering
Clemson University
110 Lowry Hall
Clemson, SC 29634-0911

Fall 2007



Civil Engineering Department

Professor Nowack Retiring After 60 Years of Teaching



"Bob Nowack was my teacher. He is a legend among people who care about teaching or who aspire to be known as great Clemson teachers."
Jim Barker, CU President

"PB is a rite of passage in engineering at Clemson University."
Janeen Putman

PB, as he is known to many, will officially retire in May 2008. PB started teaching at Clemson in 1947 and has taught multiple generations of the same family. In 1999, PB was awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition for his service to his students and the university. Dr. Nowack also holds the distinction of being an Alumni Professor, a title held by only a few.

You should know that PB still stresses attendance in his classes, gives pop quizzes, looks for the free-body diagram in student solutions, uses a student's long hair to demonstrate tension and compression, and sometimes reminds students to RTDP. His plans after retirement: continue to teach statics and dynamics.

Those of you who have had interactions with PB know that he does not like big parties and gatherings. However, a few years ago the department began a scrapbook with stories and pictures submitted by former students. In the coming months, we would like to add your stories, letters, quotes, pictures, and videos to the scrapbook. You can send them via email to rkaren@clemson.edu or mail them attention Karen Lanning, CE Dept., Clemson University, 110 Lowry Hall, Clemson SC 29634.



Student Chapters in the News...



The **Clemson Concrete Canoe Team (3CT)** competed in the Carolinas Conference in Atlanta, GA in April 2007 and finished in third place. Dr. Serji Amirkharian is the Faculty Advisor of 3CT.



After placing 2nd at the Carolinas Conference in Atlanta, GA, the **ASCE Steel Bridge Team** competed in the nationals in May 2007 at Northridge, CA. Under the guidance of their faculty advisor, Dr. Scott Schiff, the team placed 10th in the nation.

Overall in the Region, the Clemson ASCE Chapter came in 2nd place with Steve Csernak as Faculty Advisor.



Three students in the Clemson Chapter of the **Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)** won the Southern District Traffic Bowl Competition in Knoxville, TN taking away \$3000 in fellowship money. In addition, the Clemson Chapter also won the Best Chapter Award for 2007 with Wayne Sarasua as Faculty Advisor.

Bravo Students!

About 90 percent of our seniors take the FE exam. Their pass rate in the October 2006 exam was 86% compared to the National pass rate of 71%. Their pass rate in April 2007 was also 86% compared to National average pass rate of 76%.

Important Dates

- CE Alumni Drop-in, Charleston—Oct. 11
- Homecoming Tailgate—Oct. 20
- Chi Epsilon Initiation—Nov. 15
- Awards Banquet—Apr. 10

Two New Faculty Members joined the Civil Engineering Department in August 2007.

- Dr. Nigel Berkeley Kaye obtained his Ph.D. from Cambridge University and worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Imperial College in London. Last year Dr. Kaye was a lecturer in the Civil Engineering Department at Clemson University. Dr. Kaye's teaching and research interests are in fluid mechanics.
- Dr. N. (Ravi) Ravichandran obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and continued to work there as a Postdoctoral Research Associate. Dr. Ravi's teaching and research interests are in computational geotechnical engineering.

For more information, go to www.clemson.edu/ce/people/faculty.php

Outstanding Teacher of the Year

Graduating seniors have voted Mr. Steve Csernak the outstanding teacher of the year in the Civil Engineering Department for the 2006-2007 academic year. Steve has won this recognition four years in a row. Congratulations!

Volunteers Needed to spearhead a campaign within your place of work to support the Civil Engineering Department. Contact Nadim M. Aziz, Department Chair, at 864.656.3321 or email aziz@clemson.edu.



GO TIGERS!

The ASCE Student Chapter will host a Homecoming Tailgate on Saturday, October 20, 2007 for the game against Central Michigan. The tailgate will be located in front of Lowry Hall and food will be served from 9:30 -11:30 AM. Stop by and celebrate Homecoming with us! Sponsored by Tindall Corporation

Some of you suggested that the way by which you can contribute to the department be made easier. You can now contribute online using a credit card. Please remember to specify the recipient of your gift as Civil Engineering. Visit our web site for a list of our current priorities at www.clemson.edu/ce or make a gift at www.clemson.edu/alumni/giving/ways/

Outstanding! One of our alumni and Advisory Board member, Frank Eskridge, Jr. (pictured left) received the AWWA George Warren Fuller Award at the Annual Conference and Exposition in Toronto on June 27, 2007. The award "is given for distinguished service to the water supply field in commemoration of the sound engineering skill, the brilliant diplomatic talent, and the constructive leadership ...". Frank joins the ranks of other distinguished leaders in the water profession in South Carolina who are previous recipients of this award. He is the Manager of Engineering and Operations at the Greenville Water System in Greenville, SC.



The Alumni Roster

Find out where your classmates are and contact them. If you know a graduate of the CE Department who is not listed, ask them to join the roster at: www.clemson.edu/ce/people/alumni.php

Advisory Board

The CE Advisory Board held its annual meeting on April 19-20, 2007. The meeting was Chaired by Mr. Jerry Timmons. Discussion topics included the state of the department, ABET accreditation, ways to support the department, and research infrastructure needs. One of the Board's actions was to establish the Outstanding Civil Engineering Alumni Award.



Pictured seated from left to right: Richard Cottingham (Keowee Key), Jerry Timmons (Greenwood), Kathy Ware (Nashville, TN), Frank Eskridge, Jr. (Greenville). Standing from left to right: Tony Chapman (Columbia), David Young (Charlotte, NC), John Atz (West Palm Beach, FL), David Douglass (Greenville), Bill Simpson, III (Charleston). For a complete list of Board Members, visit the link below. www.clemson.edu/ce/people/advisory.php