A department with a rich history and a new name

The Department of Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences (EEES) has a long history of applying its collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to engineered and natural environmental systems. Since 1893, when the Department of Chemistry and Geology was initially formed, collaboration has been a hallmark of teaching and research for the faculty and students. This is the inspiration for our recent name change.

In 1968, environmental systems engineering was established under the leadership of Linvil Rich as a department separate from civil engineering. The department, which later became environmental engineering and science in 1997, combined engineering and science perspectives to design and investigate engineered and natural environments. Most recently, in 2007, the name of the department changed yet again to environmental engineering and earth sciences, reflecting the synergistic blend of environmental engineering, environmental science, geology and earth sciences, and nuclear environmental engineering and science within the department.

Today, EEES offers a nationally ranked environmental engineering graduate program, a highly regarded hydrogeology graduate degree, an ABET-accredited M.S. degree in environmental health physics and an innovative approach to undergraduate education in geology. EEES has been continuously ranked among the top 25 programs in the country by U.S. News & World Report, and it's the only program with three recipients of the Founders Award from the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors. The M.S. in hydrogeology (founded by David Snipes) is one of only a few programs in the country to offer a degree in the discipline, while the M.S. in environmental health physics builds on the strong foundation of nuclear environmental education and research at Clemson. Research classes interspersed throughout the sophomore through the senior years provide undergraduate geology students an advantage not found at other universities.

The new focus area dedicated to sustainable systems and environmental assessment continues the EEES tradition of leading-edge research and education using the department’s expertise in pollution prevention, sustainability science and engineering as well as sustainable natural resources. The combination of environmental chemistry, geochemistry and radiochemistry faculty also provides EEES with an edge in research.
Changing of the Guard

Thomas M. Keinath retired as dean of the College of Engineering and Science in the spring of 2006. In 1969, he joined the faculty as an assistant professor in environmental systems engineering and became department chair seven years later. He served in that capacity until he was named dean of the College of Engineering in 1992 and the first dean of the College of Engineering and Science after restructuring in 1995. Although he has retired from his position, Keinath continues to provide assistance on multiple projects for the University.

A warm welcome to Esin Gulari

Esin Gulari is beginning her third year as dean. A graduate of Caltech, Gulari also served at the National Science Foundation as both the director of the chemical and transport systems division and the assistant director for the engineering directorate. Most recently, Gulari has been appointed to the National Science Board to serve as an adviser to the president on scientific issues.

One of her major goals is to achieve national and international recognition for the college by improving the quality of its programs and offerings. “I am very excited to lead an academic unit that brings together engineering and science disciplines, and I’m a believer in the Clemson top-20 plan. The potential for the college is tremendous for many exciting and successful paths to the future.”

Chair’s Corner

I am pleased to present you with the first alumni newsletter of our department. We plan to publish this newsletter twice a year, and our goal is to share recent news items and events involving our department and our alumni.

I began serving as the department chair several months ago, and I’m continuously learning and discovering new information about our programs. I’m certain you’re eager to learn more about the diverse, dynamic and talented community we have in EEES, and you also feel proud to be a part of it.

In addition to this newsletter, there are new initiatives going on within the department that I’d like to share. We just published our new Web site, www.clemson.edu/ces/departments/eees. When you visit, you’ll probably notice several changes in the department since you graduated.

We also have a group page on Facebook (www.facebook.com) to help EEES alumni meet and share news. To join the group, please type “Clemson University Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences” in the search box on the Facebook site. We plan to post department-related pictures and videos (such as the famous student-generated annual Christmas video) to keep you in continuous touch with the EEES department.

In order to maintain our national rankings and stature, we sincerely appreciate your most generous support. There are several gift options listed on our Web site and numerous ways to contribute and leave your special legacy to the department. Please feel free to contact me to discuss the various options in further detail.

If you plan to be in the Clemson area or happen to find yourself on campus, I encourage you to pay us a visit. And please keep us informed about the events in your life!

Sincerely,

Tanju Karanfil, Ph.D., P.E., B.C.E.E.
Professor and Chair

Student and Faculty News

Larry Murdoch was invited to give a talk entitled “Building a community modeling platform for hydrology” at the MODFLOW 2008 Conference. Murdoch also presented a paper at the 2008 Computational Methods in Water Resources Conference. He convened a special session on hydrologic modeling at this conference as well as at the 1st CUAHSI National Colloquium.

Jen Oblinger, an M.S. candidate in hydrogeology under the direction of Stephen Moysey, received a $500 NGWREF Farvolden scholarship for her talk entitled “Assessing the Impact of Water Harvesting on Water Resources in Rural India” at the 2008 National Ground Water Association Ground Water Summit in Memphis, Tenn.
New faces around the department

Brian A. Powell joined the EEES faculty at Clemson University as an assistant professor in January 2008. He earned a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Montevallo (1999) then obtained M.S. (2001) and Ph.D. (2004) degrees in environmental engineering and science from Clemson University. He was a postdoctoral fellow in the Actinide Chemistry Group at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory from 2004 to 2006 and a Glenn T. Seaborg Institute Postdoctoral Fellow at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 2006 to 2007.

Shelie Miller joined the EEES faculty in 2006 after receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She earned her B.S. in chemistry from Dennison University (2000) and her M.S. in civil and environmental engineering from Clarkson University (2001). Her main research interests focus on sustainable systems, industrial ecology and life cycle assessment.

Stephen Moysey joined EEES as an assistant professor in August 2005, when it was known as the School of the Environment. He received a B.S. in environmental physical sciences from the University of Alberta (1996), an M.S. in hydrology from the University of Arizona (1999) and a Ph.D. in geophysics from Stanford University (2005).

Students from Shelie Miller’s EES 486/686 Pollution Prevention and Industrial Ecology class (left) wrote a successful proposal for $10,000 to the EPA’s People, Planet and Prosperity program, addressing the solid waste management problem of waste tires on the island of Dominica.

Tanju Karanfil’s research group made three presentations at the Annual National Meeting of the American Water Works Association in Atlanta, Ga. Many former students of Karanfil came together and enjoyed a reunion at the meeting.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Steve Cawood

A graduate of Clemson University, Steve Cawood has nearly 30 years of engineering experience with both public- and private- sector projects. He’s put his B.S. in civil engineering and M.Engr. in environmental systems engineering to hard work in the many projects he manages for Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood Inc., a full-service architectural and engineering firm with 330 employees in 12 offices around the southeastern United States, where he serves as president and principal-in-charge on numerous projects.

Cawood’s experience includes all phases of project development and implementation including project planning and studies, preliminary and final project design, rate analysis, ROW and property acquisition, permitting, procurement and contracting, construction supervision and inspection. He’s provided services to a wide variety of clients, including public officials, government agencies, and private and industrial developers. Cawood also has extensive experience with assisting local governments and industries in obtaining grant funds for a variety of improvement projects.

In addition to his career duties, Cawood is a board member of the Clemson University Foundation, founder of the Thomas M. Keinath Endowment for Environmental Systems Engineering at Clemson, a past chairman of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and a board member of the Business Council of Alabama.
Alumni News

Nancy Love (Ph.D. ‘94), left, has recently been appointed as chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Michigan. She completed her dissertation research with C.P. Leslie Grady Jr.

Susan Morgan (Ph.D. ’95) has been promoted to full professor at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Morgan joined the civil engineering department at SIU-E after completing her dissertation research with Cindy Lee.

John Sivey (M.S. ’05) was awarded an EPA STAR Fellowship for the 2008-09 academic year. John is pursuing his Ph.D. in environmental engineering at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Md. He completed his M.S. research with Cindy Lee.

Daniel “Dan” Earl Taylor (M.S. ’80), 59, died August 3, 2008, at St. Francis Hospital in Greenville, S.C.

The EEES facilities are located in the Linvil G. Rich Environmental Research Laboratory at the Advanced Materials Center (formerly known as Clemson Research Park) and Brackett Hall on the main campus. The L.G. Rich complex contains 42,000 square feet of labs, offices, classrooms and meeting space. Specialized labs are available for radiation detection, organic separations, molecular biology, adsorption and chemical oxidation, and bench-scale continuous flow bioreactors.