California State University, Chico

Caltrans has selected California State University, Chico for the site of the California Center for Pavement Preservation. The California center, funded by Caltrans with $1.8 million, will work closely with the Pavement Preservation Task Group (PPTG). PPTG is a volunteer group consisting of members from Caltrans, the pavement industry, local agencies and academia to help promote pavement preservation within the state.

The kickoff event for this partnership was a luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 28, with a program of speakers for 90 professionals and administrators from the pavement industry.

Pavement preservation activities such as routine maintenance, preventive maintenance and minor rehabilitation maintain and preserve the existing highway system in an optimum way. The Pavement Preservation Center is the result of Federal Highway Administration efforts to establish protocols and standards for pavement preservation that would be nationally accepted.

To address this challenge at the national level, the Foundation for Pavement Preservation (FP2) and the National Center for Pavement Preservation at Michigan State University have been established. To address the challenge at a local level, state centers needed to be established.

The California center will specialize in services for both governmental agencies and the private sector, including developing educational courses, providing training and staff development opportunities, providing technical assistance, managing research and offering outreach assistance.

In addition to the funding from Caltrans, the center will work with industry and government agencies to secure additional funds for the proposed activities.

R. Gary Hicks will serve as the technical director for the center. Hicks is retired as a professor of civil engineering from Oregon State University. He currently is an adjunct professor in the Department of Civil Engineering in the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management.

Tom Ferrara, also a professor of civil engineering in ECC, will be the center’s director. Ferrara has taught at CSU, Chico since 1971 and successfully directed dozens of projects for the Research Foundation. He received his Ph.D. in civil engineering from UC Davis.

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Kathleen McPartland, CSU, Chico, Sept. 27, 2006

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**2007 CIVIL ENGINEERING OUTSTANDING ALUMNI**

Rory Rottschalk is currently vice-president of Culp and Tanner, a structural engineering company with offices in Chico, Orange County and Las Vegas. C&T specializes in large commercial structures throughout the US. Rory has worked for C &T since his college graduation. The majority of C &T employees are CSUC graduates, several of which have participated with the engineering college as guest lecturers and special project sponsors.

Rory is a long time resident of Chico, having arrived here with his family in 1966 at the age of 12. He attended Chico High and in 1976 graduated from CSUC’s Civil Engineering program. Rory has been married to his Chico High School sweetheart for 30 years. Their recently married daughter will be graduating from CSUC this spring with a BS in Bio-Chemistry. Their son currently attends Butte College focusing on business and psychology.

Rory and his company commit a portion of their time to work with area social service institutions (public and private) in an effort to bring hope to those in our community who need “a helping hand”. He is actively pursuing this goal with other businesspersons of like mind in Chico and the surrounding communities attempting to form a “Community Alliance” with the community at large and the social service network.

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**Pavement Preservation Center Established at CSU, Chico**

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Kathleen McPartland, CSU, Chico, Sept. 27, 2006
GREETINGS!

On behalf of the faculty, staff and the students in the Civil Engineering program, I hope you all had a great holiday season and wish you a prosperous new year!

Last year was a productive one for the Civil Engineering program. We hired three new tenure track faculty for this academic year. Dr. Ding Cheng (Transportation and Geotechnical) joined us this fall and Dr. Stephen Mehl (Water Resources) and Dr. Curt Haselton (Structural and Earthquake Engineering) will be joining us this semester. We are very excited to have new faculty joining our program to help replace the faculty who have retired over the past few years. In addition, our student groups continue their successes. SEAOCC hosted and placed first in the regional design competition this fall. The steel bridge team advanced to Nationals for an unprecedented tenth straight year earning an 8th place finish in the Nation last spring. The newly formed Engineers Without Borders student group accomplished great things as well (you can see the article in last year’s newsletter on the CE Web Page).

I am pleased to announce that Rory Rottschalk has been selected by the Civil Engineering faculty as Alumni of the year. His nomination was based on his professional accomplishments, outstanding service to the community, and his continued support of the CE program. Congratulations Rory.

This fall our program reached record enrollment with 287 declared CE majors. To meet enrollment demands, I hired five new temporary faculty to staff classes this fall. Many thanks to newcomers, Charlie Roberts, Brian Myers, Robert Clark, Steve Ringel (all alumni) and Paul Rocchio, and continuing faculty, Rui Chen and Jim Scolaro for coming to the aid of the department!

Fall semester was a busy and productive one. Tom Ferrara and Gary Hicks worked tirelessly to form the new California Pavement Preservation Center (CPPC) at Chico State. In addition, Ding Cheng submitted a proposal to the California Integrated Waste Management Board to offer continuing education for utilizing waste tires in pavement and other civil engineering applications. This proposal has received tentative approval.

As I look forward to spring semester, there are a few things that you should be aware of. Please consider participating in Alumni Day in the classroom to share your experiences with our students and career fair in the afternoon on the 6th of April. Also, consider participating in the 14th annual CE golf tournament and dinner on Sunday, May 6th. This year’s tournament will be held at Table Mountain Golf Course in Oroville. I would ask those of you that played as a graduating senior consider playing in the tournament this year or at least sponsoring a student.

I also need to acknowledge the very generous donations from local firms, alumni, and friends of civil engineering:

- Rolls Anderson and Rolls for donating a new target-less Topcon total station.
- Dennis Murphy and Hayden Homes
- Maurice and Margaret Mow
- Culp and Tanner
- Jessen Wright
- Gary and Lorraine Watters
- Dan Gonzales of Atzlan Graphics
- Jim and Cathy Schuricht
- Sam Johnson

And I would like to thank all our charitable alumni and supporters without whom we would not be able to continue to operate.

Please take some time to fill out the attached alumni survey form. If you think of ways that you may be able to help the department, or that the department may be able to help you, don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joel Arthur
A great advantage for civil engineering students is to apply basic principles and concepts to real world applications. This is the case for six students who surveyed a floodplain along the Lindo Channel. The 17-acre Verbena Fields site (on Lindo Channel at the intersection of 1st and Verbena Avenues) is an area of historic gravel extraction and processing that is proposed for flood plain creation, wetlands enhancement and creation, and riparian, oak woodlands and native grasslands restoration. Lindo Channel is a natural distributary of Big Chico Creek that currently serves to transport flood flows diverted at the 5-Mile Dam.

The Department of Civil Engineering was asked to provide a topographic survey and map of the existing area for further study. Students were responsible for setting up a large control network as well as locating existing bench marks to establish a basis of elevation. Using both total stations and GPS technologies, they collected over 3000 data points to produce a terrain model that will become the map for existing site conditions.

Opportunities such as these not only benefit the students by providing application to rigorous academic objective of the civil engineering program, but also supplies engineering firms with well-informed interns and future employees. The student’s contributions to the community will long be remembered as this floodplain restoration, wetland enhancement and stormwater management program comes to pass.
The Civil Engineering Department wishes to express its appreciation to the following alumni and friends who have contributed to the Annual Fund supporting our Department from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

$1000 +  Sam Johnson
$100 to $249  Mark Adams, Bob Becker, Charles Capell, Arthur Carter, David Day, David Ferguson, Tom Ferrara, Jarrod Holliday, Gary Kalsbeek, Brian Korte, Thomas Kuykendall, Mark McClone, Jerry Minor, Charles Mueller, Robert Pillsbury, Michael Potter, Gerald Regoli, Jr., Frank Rivas, Lynette Spadorcio, Jeff Steffan, Gary Watters, Wilbur Wright, Edward Zangger
Up to $99  Donald Becker, James Bray, Conrad Bridges, Gerald Brownfield, Matthew Bruce, Carl Colbie, Larry Harrison, Felicia Haslem, Mike Loegering, Scott Munns, Christopher Nardi, Jeff Pizzi, Michael Ricks, Pete W. Rodgers, Paul Rowe, David Smith, Ned Stuart, Brandon Summerrill, Mark Watkins

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Joel Arthur was appointed Chair Fall of 2006, and says the position is everything he dreamed it would be and so very much more. His focus as chair has been to balance faculty workload and to try to ensure the success of the new faculty by providing them with needed support. As faculty advisor to SEAOCC, he worked with the students in building and entering the bridge that was designed under John Mohle's leadership. This bridge would have earned a top two finish at nationals had it not been for a questionable weight penalty which dropped us to 8th place. SEAOCC both hosted and placed first in the regional structures competition last fall. Joel continues his research activities with three projects tentatively approved for the fruit and nut harvester, and precision, and autonomous farming applications. Current hobbies include surfing when he gets the chance, tinkering with race cars, and of course working on his tractors and construction projects.

Carol continues to teach in Math and is the Lone Pine 4H horse group leader. Casey assists her mom with the horse group and continues her studies as a sophomore in the CE program. Carly is in eighth grade and is a budding artist who loves riding her new paint horse “Dakota”. Both girls won buckles at the Butte County horse show last spring.

DingXin Cheng started his tenure-track teaching career the fall semester of 2006, which he feels is both challenging and rewarding. He enjoys discussions with his students, inside and outside the classroom. He likes many subjects related to his education background and past experiences, especially in the fields of transportation, as he teaches transportation engineering class in the fall semester. He spends a lot of time improving his teaching skills as well as writing proposals for future research funding. He very much appreciates the newly established California Pavement Preservation Center at the CSU, Chico. He feels a strong connection with the center and will try his best to serve the center and contribute to pavement preservation programs. On a personal note, his wife and four year old son pretty much enjoy the many outdoor activities, beautiful parks, quiet and energetic college town environment. He finds that Chico is a great place to live and work.
On Friday, April 6, 2007, Civil Engineering will be hosting our 25th Annual Alumni Day in the Classroom. You are invited to participate in the day’s activities by sharing your experiences and ideas with our students.

Two alumni guest speakers will be scheduled in each of our classes. Visiting alumni will be our guests for a luncheon with students and faculty. We are looking for alumni with a wide range of experience - from recent grads to principals in firms. Here are a few ideas of what you could talk about:

- how you made the transition from college to the work place
- private practice vs. public employment
- interesting projects
- how you started your own business
- how important are communication skills lessons learned after graduation

Please don’t feel limited to the above topics. The interaction with our visiting alumni continues to have a very positive influence on our students. We welcome all alumni to come and share their experiences with us.

If you can join us, please indicate your class preferences on the enclosed Alumni Reply Form.

The following civil engineering classes will be held on Friday, April 6th:
- Contracts, Specifications and Technical Reports
- Fluid Mechanics
- Soil Mechanics
- Open Channels
- Strength of Materials

The following alumni shared their ideas and experiences with us on Alumni Day 2006 and made the day a great success: Kari Forbes, Greg Haling, Chad Houchin, Steve Klingman, Richard Lowell, Dennis Murphy, Wayne Ohlin, Joel Slick and Brian Stephenson.

Thanks again to all alumni who have made Alumni Day in the Classroom very special!

Tom Ferrara, Alumni Day Coordinator

Curt Haselton received his B.S. in Civil Engineering in 2002 from CSU Chico, then proceeded to Stanford University and completed his Ph.D. in Structural Engineering in December of 2006. His Ph.D. research focused on simulating the seismic collapse behavior of reinforced concrete buildings, and using the findings to help improve seismic building code requirements. In this effort to improve building code requirements, he is currently working with the Applied Technology Council Project 63 to utilize his Ph.D. research findings and develop a codified methodology for assessing building collapse safety. He is also continuing his research with the Ground Motion Selection and Modification working group, which is based in Berkeley, California. Curt is interested in using his background to provide research opportunities for CE students and to offer structural and earthquake engineering courses that will help them to excel in their future careers.

Tom Ferrara is in his last year of the faculty early retirement program. He has been teaching in civil engineering since fall of 1971. Spring 07 will likely be the last time he teaches a civil engineering course at Chico State. This past summer he traveled to China for a transportation engineering conference and toured Canada. The Canada trip included Niagara Falls, Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, and the baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Tom is currently working with Professor Gary Hicks to set up the California Pavement Preservation Center at Chico State. Tom hopes to continue to be involved with University Foundation and Research Foundation efforts for a few more years.

Gary Hicks, Research Professor, recently joined the faculty in Civil Engineering to work with Tom Ferrara on the newly formed California Pavement Preservation Center to be located at CSU, Chico. Gary comes to Chico following a long career in teaching at...
Georgia Tech (1970-75) and Oregon State University (1975-1997). He retired in 1997 as the Director of the Engineering Experiment Station and as Distinguished Professor in Civil Engineering then remained on campus until 2000 working on a variety of research projects. For the past 6 years he has lived in Chico and has served as a project manager/senior principal for MACTEC on studies for the California Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, California Integrated Waste Management Board, and the San Francisco Airport Authority. Gary attended Chico State in the late 50’s before transferring to UC Berkeley where he received all his degrees. He is also a member of the Civil Engineering professional advisory board at CSU, Chico.

Steffen Mehl received his B.S. in Environmental Resources Engineering from Humboldt State University in 1996. Then went to the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Water Resources Engineering. He has been working for the U.S. Geological Survey as a hydrologist where he has focused on improving the simulation capabilities of groundwater models. Steffen’s interests are flow and transport modeling in hydrologic systems, surface water/ground-water interactions, parameter estimation and uncertainty analysis in hydrologic systems, and computational methods for solving engineering problems. He looks forward to bringing a water resources emphasis to the Civil Engineering program. When not working, he enjoys playing soccer.

Russ Mills, after three trying years, has ‘retired’ as department chair (as he left, he mumbled something about being chair is like trying to herd cats). He thought he would be returning to teaching full time but instead finds himself, at the dean’s request, immersed in program assessment and development. Not to mention starting a term as a university academic senator (free cookie and coffee twice a month at senate meetings!) plus chairing the university-wide Faculty and Student Policies Committee next semester. Russ and family returned to Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico last summer, hopefully laying the groundwork for a sabbatical leave in a year or two. The scuba diving wasn’t too bad in Cozumel, either.

Maurice Mow continues on the FERP program, teaching half-time both semesters and enjoying teaching and the association with students and colleagues on the faculty. He is currently an alternate to the ABET board of directors.

Stewart Oakley traveled to Honduras twice during the last year to work on a wastewater treatment project with a group of students who founded the CSUC Chapter of Engineers Without Borders. Last June the group presented their design project to the Municipality of Tela, Honduras, which plans to begin implementing the project this spring. Dr. Oakley also presented workshops on management of wastewater stabilization pond systems to the Brazilian Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering in João Pessoa, Brazil, and to the USEPA National Technical Inspector Workshop in Denver, Colorado. Finally, he presented a workshop on nitrogen removal in wastewater treatment systems at the Nitrogen Removal Symposium in St. Paul, Minnesota.

James Scolaro Research Assistant Professor, has a temporary full time appointment in the Civil Engineering Department. Being a Chico graduate, he continues consulting for local engineering firms to keep current with project planning and permitting requirements. He has attended many workshops with the purpose of continuing to enhance course material. These include the Spatial Reference Systems workshop through the University of California, San Diego which included utilizing GPS reference stations in land surveying applications. He also completed CAD Pilot Boot Camp and Top Gun School for Civil 3D software which is replacing some of the current terrain modeling programs. To remain current in water resources, James has been attending Federal Emergency Management Agency seminars, which includes current guidelines for the National Flood Insurance Program.
GERMAN ENGINEERING  
by Chin Leung

Germany is almost always associated with sophisticated engineering marvels. Autobahn, BMW, Mercedes, you name it. I am Chin Leung, a senior in civil engineering at CSU, Chico and I had the chance to study in the Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH-Technische Universitat Hamburg-Harburg) in the Spring 2006 semester to see how German engineers are educated.

Hamburg is one of the three city-states in Germany, and is the second biggest city in Germany with a population of about 1.6 million. The University of Technology is located south of the Elbe River, in the Harburg district. Harburg was the medieval city that was eventually absorbed into Hamburg.

In most cases, German students who wish to study at a university have to complete the Abitur, a rigorous exit exam from the secondary school system. Typically, students spend about five years in a university to complete their ‘diplom’, a Masters equivalent degree, although the European Union is now implementing the Anglo-Saxon degree system.

To fulfill my engineering degree requirements, soil mechanics and environmental engineering, I had to take these courses which are only offered in German. I also attended lectures for Finite Element Analysis and second semester Reinforced Concrete Design, but did not register for the exams. Most German classes, unlike classes at Chico State, do not have compulsory homework requirements. Student performances are evaluated by only the final exam. The job market for civil engineers in Germany has, unfortunately, been limited in the last few years, and the major is not nearly as popular as others like Mechanical Engineering. Classes are held in big lecture halls but there were only a handful of students in civil engineering classes.

Learning about topics like denitrification (environmental engineering) and groundwater (soil mechanics) in German was definitely challenging, as I spent hours studying and trying to grasp a better understanding of the topic. Students start to study about a month ahead of the exams. Finding out that all the final exams were passed was a great relief during my short stay in Germany. I passed exams in Soil Mechanics, Environmental Engineering and German as a Foreign Language.

Being able to study abroad in Germany was definitely a great opportunity to see how other countries educate their future engineers. After reading this article, hopefully the Chico State Civil Engineering alumni will have a better understanding of where those mysterious Autobahn-building German engineers come from.

CSUC CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENT NAMES FINALIST IN ESSAY COMPETITION

Quixote Corporation announced that CSU, Chico civil engineering student Shahna Thomas was named a finalist in the 2006 Philip E Rollhaus, Jr. essay competition. Shahna was awarded a $1000 prize for her success in the national competition as one of seven finalists. Shahna’s essay, addressed the subject of roundabouts, and was prepared as an alternate assignment in transportation engineering during fall 2005. Shahna is a May 2006 graduate in Civil Engineering from CSU, Chico. She is currently working on an MS in Civil Engineering at CSU, Sacramento and is employed as a construction engineer on the Highway 70/149/99 project between Chico and Oroville in Butte County.

Congratulations Shahna!!
What are Civil Engineering Alumni Doing Today?

Boyd “Dave” Lewett, ’59 - Retired in 1988 from the Contra Costa County Public Works Department. Was serving as Assistant Director of Public Works in charge of the Engineering Services Division. My wife, Arlene, and I enjoyed 14 years of retirement in our home in Big Trees Village, Calaveras County, CA. In 2002 we moved to our present home in Sun City Lincoln Hills, a Del Webb retirement community. Present member of ASCE, former of APWA.


Lee McCleary, ’69 - I continue to operate my one-man(me) structural consulting business from my basement office in my home. (I really like the rent and the commute!). Most of my work is with residential projects: additions; remodels, and occasional new houses. Given the large and diverse economy of the San Francisco Bay area, my business continues to be very active, as it has been for the last 10 years. The niche of the engineering business in which I works lends itself well to ‘one-horse’ operations such as mine, and there seems to be no shortage of work or opportunity - Go Engineering!

Don Rushton, ’79 - I continue serving the taxpayers as an Associate Transportation Engineer for CalTrans. I’m entering my ninth year (yes, ninth!) as the project engineer on the Willits Bypass Project, a proposed freeway approximately 6 miles long. In the same period, I have shaved about 6 strokes off my golf handicap, so you can see where my priorities lie.

Evan Edgar, ’84 - The Edgar Institute opened in 2005 where ‘the art of politics and science’ collabrate in an Queen Anne Victorian. Lobbying for green energy, green house gas reductions, compost market development and zero waste. Living the dream in the new urban order.

Greg Haling, ’84 - I am the owner and principal engineer for Haling & Associates, formerly operations manager for Metcalf & Eddy. I have 5 children ages 20 through 12 (4 boys and 1 girl). My primary field of expertise is environmental engineering and pollution investigations. I have lived in Chico since graduation. College classmates that I have spoken with recently are all doing well and believe CSUC prepared them well for their careers.

Michael J. Preszler, ’92 - I manage the Mead & Hunt Sacramento Water Resources office. The CSU,Chico Civil Engineering Department prepared me very well and I continue to enjoy success steming from my civil engineering education.

Tom Manning, ’96 - I started Manning Engineering in 2005, specializing in structural engineering of commercial and custom residential projects all around the north state. Laura and I live in Durham, with two daughters. Kait is 16 and Amanda is 10.

Erich Brashears, ’00 - Currently working for Nolte Associates in Sacramento as an associate engineer in the structures group. In addition, serving as Office Sustainable Designer Coordinator, responsible for employee training and project assessments with regard to sustainable design. Recently obtained LEED Accredited Professional Licensure.

Brian Stephenson, ’00 - has 5+ years employment with Dokken Engineering in Sacramento. 20+ projects around the state, project engineer, bike trails in Placerville and Pasadena. Bridges in Modesto and Moss Landing. Road projects in Granite Bay, Kings Beach and El Dorado Hills.

Myles Gilbert, ’02 - Serving as a First Lieutenant in US Air Force as a civil engineer officer, been stationed at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado since April 2003. Currently deployed in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, serving as Lead Reconstruction Engineer in charge of reconstruction projects for PRT Gardez since April 2006. Responsible for design/project management of all projects ranging from building, bridge, road, power system and conducting construction inspections.

Randall C. Presleigh, ’04 - works at Jessen & Wright Structural Engineers in Chico. Traveled to Scotland and Ireland in May and recently became engaged.
Boyd “Dave” Lewett, ’59 - Retired in 1988 from the Contra Costa County Public Works Department. Was serving as Assistant Director of Public Works in charge of the Engineering Services Division. My wife, Arlene, and I enjoyed 14 years of retirement in our home in Big Trees Village, Calaveras County, CA. In 2002 we moved to our present home in Sun City Lincoln Hills, a Del Webb retirement community. Present member of ASCE, former of APWA.


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ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Civil Engineering Department

California State University, Chico

Linda Farrell

January 2007

California State University, Chico
Civil Engineering Department
Zip 930
Chico, CA 95929
January 2007
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
ALUMNI REPLY FORM

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM !!! Your news and comments are very important to us.

Donations are urgently needed and greatly appreciated! If you have not already done so, please consider sending a tax deductible donation along with the reply form.

Name: ___________________________________________ Date: ___________________

Home Address: ________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: ________________________________________________________________________

Telephone Number: (_____)____________________ Year Graduated: _________________________

FAX Number: (_____)________________________ E-Mail: _________________________________

☐ Check if interested in participating in the May 6, 2007 CE Golf Tournament TBA
☐ Check if interested in assisting with the CE Golf Tournament
☐ Check if interested in serving on the Professional Advisory Board (PAB)
☐ Check if interested in receiving correspondence by e-mail

News for the 2007/2008 Newsletter (employment, accomplishments, family, travel and/or general comments):
___________________________________________________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Would you like to be a speaker on April 6th "Alumni Day in the Classroom" Yes _____ No ____

What classes (preference order) would you prefer:

1. _______________________________________
2. _______________________________________
3. _______________________________________
4. _______________________________________

Employer: ____________________________________________

Type of Work: _______________________________________

Business Telephone: (_____)_____________________

FAX Number: (_____)__________________________

☐ Check if you or your employer would like to participate in the Civil Engineering Job Fair from 2:00-4:30 p.m. April 6th in O'Connell 254.

☐ Check if you would like information on "endowed" accounts for Civil Engineering.

☐ Check if you would like to contribute to an existing endowment account

I would like to make a donation of $_________ to the Civil Engineering Annual Fund to be used for: ____________________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to: "CSUC CE DEPARTMENT"

This is a postpaid mailer. Fold, tape securely if check/business card enclosed, and return.