

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Civil Engineering Department

Chico State University, Chico

Linda Farrell

January 2004

CIVIL ENGINEERING HAS NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

Karena Mayer

After teaching at Chico State University for twenty years, Professor Russell S. Mills prepares to take Professor Mow's position as the Civil Engineering Department Chair beginning fall 2003. Professor Mills received his B.S. in Civil Engineering at Chico State in 1974, and then went on to obtain his M.S. and Ph.D. in Structural Engineering at Stanford University. Professor Mills has been teaching at Chico State since 1982 and was honored by California State University, Chico as the Outstanding Teacher for 2000-2001.



STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN HAWAII

Melanie Lawrence

Four CSU, Chico Civil Engineering students traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii to attend the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Zone IV Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders.

John Calvert, Melanie Lawrence, Steve Grupico, and Jamie Butler attended the conference February 28- March 2, 2003. The conference was designed to help student leaders of ASCE chapters with their leadership skills. Mr. Calvert, current student chapter vice president, said "This conference was such a great way to learn about ASCE and meet other students leaders."

The students were able to meet leaders from other universities in Zone IV (which consists of Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, and Utah) as well as professionals involved in local sections and branches of ASCE and the Younger Member's Forum (YMF).

In addition to attending the conference to hone their leadership skills, Ms. Lawrence and Ms. Butler accepted a national award for the "Best Student Outreach Activity" in honor of ASCE's 150th anniversary, which was celebrated last year. The award was in honor of their coordination efforts for "Minds in Motion", an outreach event that took place in September 2002 on the Chico State campus. "Receiving this award is such an honor. Out of all the universities in Zone IV, Chico State put on the best event," said Ms. Lawrence, current student chapter president. The award was given during a luncheon for all the conference participants, in which the President Elect of National ASCE presided.

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Minds in Motion '04

Jamie Piacentine

This spring, Chico State Engineering students will once again host the Second Annual Minds in Motion event on the CSUC campus. On Friday, February 27, Minds in Motion will inspire local students to become interested in math, science, and Engineering through a full afternoon of hands-on activities, informational booths, and engineering competitions. There will even be a raffle! Last years' event took place in September 2002 and was moved this year to February in honor of National Engineers Week.

The First Annual Minds in Motion was very successful and earned Chico State a National Award from ASCE for the Best Outreach event. There were nearly 1000 students from grades 1-11 attending the event with over 200 student volunteers. Students competed in events such as the popsicle bridge. A team of 4 young women from Chico High won the top award. Included in the prizes for each member on their team was a new color printer! The generosity of Chico State students, professors, local businesses, alumni, and engineering firms from all over the North State made the first event possible, as well as making it a great success! Even the Dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science, & Technology, Dean Ken Derucher, supported the event by buying all the volunteers burgers at Madison Bear Garden at the end of the day.

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Dear Alumni and Friends:

New-year greetings from all of us at the Civil Engineering Department! If you check the bottom of this communiqué, you'll notice that the department has a new administrator. I've succeeded Dr. Mow in the captain's chair as he transitions into the faculty early-retirement program. We delayed this newsletter to make sure I could lead the department through my first semester - and we're still here!

The most significant accomplishment this academic year, for all the engineering programs, is renewal of ABET accreditation (that's the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). Accreditation provides national certification of our program and is essential to the viability of engineering at Chico State. Nevertheless, ABET identified some rough edges - principal needs that we will be addressing in the near future are program assessment, funding, and instructional staffing.

The state budget shortfall has hit hard. Over the past three years, state operational support for the college has declined by half. Personnel support has also declined, partly through open faculty positions not being filled. In just the past several years, the CE department has had four retirements (Profs. Mueller, Teasdale, Watters, and Gibby) and three faculty taking retirement-related reductions in workload (Profs. Mow, Ferrara, and Henkel). This represents an equivalent loss of over five faculty members while, during the same period, the department has only filled a single, tenure-track position (Dr. Emerson).

To make things even more interesting, CE enrollment is up. For fall semester we counted 210 majors (over 20% growth in just two years), including a tremendous increase in the freshman class. Transfer numbers from junior colleges are somewhat stagnant, although we are attracting the attention of many individuals with prior bachelor degrees wanting to return to college for retooling - seems the job market has encouraged many to reconsider their career goals and civil engineering is looking good.

So, how do we continue to offer a strong and vital program? We are fortunate to have exceptional temporary faculty who provide support in critical areas (most recently, Mr. Scolaro, Dr. Chen, and Ms. Bowcutt-Miller). Courses are also now taught in much larger class sizes (for example, our biggest class last term was CE 010 Surveying, with sixty students in one lecture section). The net result is everyone, faculty and staff, is working harder than they were just a few years ago.

Nevertheless, we still find time for some extracurricular events. The ASCE student chapter will be conducting the second nearly-annual Minds in Motion outreach event on February 27th (see the related article elsewhere in this newsletter). On April 2nd we'll celebrate Engineer's Day almost two months late, along with Alumni-in-the-Classroom and the Job Fair (the delay was adopted in order to conform to the university scholarship cycle). The banquet follows on April 3rd.

A heartfelt thank-you to all who donated to the department this past year. We began the academic year with the lowest financial resources in decades, but as a result of your generosity (roughly \$6500 in donations in December alone!) our financial health has greatly improved. Donations are used to provide a variety of resources supporting our education mission. However, expenses will continue to accrue, and I encourage all to remember us in your charitable thoughts and actions. As an example, beginning next year, due to funding cuts, the university will no longer provide central support for our AutoCAD license - with current discounting, a single-lab educational license runs \$3000 annually!

This newsletter includes a reply form. Please let us know what you are doing and if you would like to participate in upcoming events. The prepaid mailer may also be used to send a donation to the department. Until next year - peace, happiness, and prosperity...

Russell S. Mills, Ph.D. P.E.
Chair and Professor of Civil Engineering

Robert W. Pillsbury
2004 CE Department Outstanding Alumnus

Robert W. Pillsbury has become the seventh inductee to the civil engineering department's directory of outstanding alumni. This award was initiated in 1998 as a means for recognizing the achievements and contributions of our graduates.

Bob was born, raised, and educated in Chico, graduating from Chico State College in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. This was the first year for the CE degree, as previously the degree carried the generic title of "Engineering" (although it was still heavy on civil). At the time, engineering classes were held in an "old" house north of Big Chico Creek, near the football field, and were taught by Herb Langdon and Saad Amer, with the later arrival of Ted Reyhner.

As a junior at Chico, Bob passed the civil service test and took a summer job with the Bureau of Public Roads (now the Federal Highway Administration). He worked on survey crews from Kings Canyon to the north coast and Mt. Shasta. After graduation and his marriage to Judy, he embarked on a three-year training program consisting of two years of bridge design and construction in California, followed by six months each in Washington, D.C. and Maine. Bob then came back west and spent another two years building bridges for federal agencies in southwest Oregon.

Bob was eventually transferred to the Oregon Division office as an Assistant Bridge Engineer, and spent the early years overseeing bridge construction in Oregon. As a result of his extensive experience, Bob was selected in 1978 and 1982 to participate in a team of bridge inspectors that traveled to and rated bridges in Saudi Arabia. Bob became Regional Bridge Engineer for the Portland region in 1982, overseeing bridgework in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska, and

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Stephen Gonsalves
2004 ECST College Outstanding Alumnus

The College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology at CSU, Chico has just announced that Steve Gonsalves has been selected as it's outstanding alumnus for 2004. Steve, a 1981 graduate of the civil engineering program, is the third CE graduate to earn this distinction (the others being Ed Anderson and Dan Gonzales).

Steve is the principal partner in charge of the Chico architecture and engineering office of Nichols, Melburg & Rossetto, having joined the firm in 1988. He is a licensed civil engineer, structural engineer, and architect in California. Steve and his partners are currently developing 555 Main Street in Chico, a large mixed-use project in the downtown that is the first major addition to the city's built environment in many years.

STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN HAWAII

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"Attending this conference was so much fun," says Mr. Grupico. "I would encourage students to get involved in ASCE and attend conferences like this one." All of the students enjoyed their time in Hawaii, where they got to do a little bit of sightseeing along with attending the conference. They had the general consensus that the conference was rewarding and worth the time they have devoted to ASCE.

Sending four of our students was made possible from generous donations given by national ASCE, The Sacramento Section of YMF, the Structural Engineers Association of California, and the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology at CSU, Chico.

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, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

\$1000 + CE Faculty & Staff, Bradley Forsythe, Fred Hotes, James Lai

\$250 to \$999 David Deuy, Sam Johnson, Paul Klassen, MacKay & Somps, Inc., Julia Moriarty, Harold Welborn

\$100 to \$249 Mark Adams, Steven Begginga, Gerald Brownfield, James Cook, Kevin Dossey, Joseph Enke, Marsial Fernandez, Roger Henry, Rex Harvey, Thomas Jennings, Paul Kanitz, Kenneth Myers, Bruce Nash, Michael Potter, Rand Presleigh, Michael Reagan, Sandis Humber Jones, Elmer Schaal, Ronald Shideler, Lynette Spadorico, Stephen Wright, Wilbur Wright

Up to \$99 Robert Blume, Conrad Bridges, Bruce Capaul, Anthony Cinquini, James Crumm, John Crump, David Dammuller, Donald Hale, George Hansen, Melissa Haury, Gary Henderson, Dale Huber, Tim Huckabay, John Kuzia, Ted Lai, Lenard Long, Stephen Lord, Ronald Loutzenhiser, Homer Lowe, Stanley Moorhead, John Muir, James Murray, Robert Olson, Christopher Nardi, George Nickerson, Michael Ricks, Dennis Schmidt, Robert Stanfield, Diana Stelle, Robert Stinger, Brando Summerill, Joanne Swaney, Gerard Thibeault, Gary Weinreich, Terry L. Whittington, Richard Yan, Edward Zangger

SCHOLARSHIPS

The following civil engineering students received scholarships and/or awards for 03/04:

COLLEGE & DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

<i>Aztlan</i>	David Moreno	<i>Murphy</i>	Jeremy Pearce
<i>ASCE/Koster</i>	Paul Rabo	<i>Marr Shaffer & Miyamoto</i>	Michael Kuykendall
<i>CE Alumni</i>	Elnora Gilman, Steve Grupico	<i>Moriarty</i>	Lisa Griffith, Lamin Williams
<i>Ferrara</i>	Jamie Piacentine	<i>Ringel</i>	Kari Bianchini
<i>Grimm Family</i>	Jon Talley	<i>Roberts</i>	David Altstatt
<i>Lagerlef</i>	Kushwant Chohan	<i>Wood Rodgers</i>	John Calvert
		<i>Watters</i>	Leon "JR" Cody

AWARDS

C E Alumni Recognition

Steve Grupico, Michael Kuykendall
Elnora Gilman

ASCE Feather River Branch

Professionalism - Beverly Kildare
Scholarship - Clay Thistle

ASCE Sacramento Section

Professionalism - Jennifer Wheelis
Scholarship - Ross Simmons

STATE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

NSF Scholarship - Desiree Partlow
Caltrans - Jamie Butler

FALL 2002

Garrick Bryson
Jonathan Edwards
Myles Gilbert
Glenn Hammond
Chad Houchin
Kristen Kingsley
Alexander Peterson
Ross Simmons
Khin Khin Thu

SPRING 2003

Doyle Ables
Sergio Damian
Lauren Helmick
Beverly Kildare
Joseph Leonard
Kapu Lit
Katherine Lusich Nixon
Karena Mayer
Luis Pompa
Uriah Reisman
Michael Thompson
Nathan Toews
Stephen Wilson

FALL 2003

Ryan Bailey
Nicholas Becker
Jason Feudale
Felicia Gonzales
Sarah Jones
Michael Kuykendall
Jeff Matson
Seth Petrie
Daniel Rechs
Megan Scurlock
Joel Slick
Blake Warmerdam
Lianne Yeager

A DREAM, A HOME, A COMMUNITY

From the Corning Observer, April 25, 2003 - Troi Atkinson, Staff Writer

A Dream, a Home, a Community. This is the theme of Self-Help Housing Improvement Project (SHHIP) which this year is celebrating their 30th anniversary. Through the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program (a program funded by USDA Rural Development), SHHIP helps families with limited income become homeowners.

Since its beginning, more than 23,880 homes have been constructed. "This particular development was started approximately nine months ago and some of the homes are now complete," said Karl Ory, Project Manager. "Our tentative goal, is to try for one home per month."

Families are responsible for a minimum of 65 percent of the labor. "There is tremendous sweat equity for the participants," said Ory.

Rural Development provides subsidies that reduces monthly payments for qualified buyers. House payments are adjusted to the family's income level.

To be eligible, the household must have an annual income of \$15,500. The applicant must have good credit and low monthly debt. They must also be a legal resident of the United States.

Each of the homes are valued at approximately \$90,000.

SHHIP has been responsible for building projects for limited income families all over the North State and has helped those same families, establish themselves in communities where they may not have had any chance otherwise. "It brings a large improvement to the community," said Ory.

The project has also attracted the attention of **Chico State students**. Several students of the Civil Engineering Department* come out to help and donate their time. Most come for the experience, but find that the enthusiasm and comradeship, is contagious.

SHHIP has secured the purchase of eight new lots in Corning and hopes to start breaking ground around the second week in May.

*Civil Engineering students L.S. Williams, Paul Rabo, Steve Grupico, John Calvert and Melanie Lawrence

Minds in Motion '04

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Planning is already underway! Chico State's Society of Women Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers have received a grant for the Diversity Action Grant Project from ASME to get them started. This event is student organized and needs your help. To learn how you can participate in this event by donating your time, money, or a prize to the upcoming event, please write to:

mindsinmotion04@yahoo.com.

On Friday, April 2, 2004, we will be hosting our 22nd 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 will be scheduled as guest speakers in each of our classes. Visiting alumni will be our guests for a barrel chicken BBQ lunch with students and faculty. We are looking for alumni with a wide range of experience--from recent grads to principals in firms. What would you talk about? Here are a few ideas: how you made the transition from college to the workplace; private practice vs. public employment; interesting projects; how you started your own business; how important are communication skills; lessons learned after graduation. We are flexible so don't feel limited to the above topics.

The interaction with our visiting alumni has been 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 2nd: *Contracts and Specifications, Environmental Engineering, Fluid Mechanics, Soil Mechanics, Strength of Materials, Structural Mechanics, and Steel Design*.

The following alumni shared their ideas and experiences with us this past Alumni Day and made the day a great success: Joe Cacioppo, Ken Giberson, C. Bryan Graves, Steve Klingman, Doug Kobold, Richard Lowell, Dennis Murphy, James Wright and Harold Welborn.

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

Ken Henkel, Alumni Day Coordinator

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Robert W. Pillsbury **2004 CE Department Outstanding Alumnus**

was ultimately licensed in all four states. He finished out his career in the state of Washington as Division Bridge Engineer, retiring in 1990.

Bob and Judy now live in Tucson, Arizona, where they enjoy year-round access to hiking and golf. They are frequent travelers, including trips to see their seven grandchildren and one greatgrand-child. Bob is also active in the Tucson community and the Presbyterian Church, and has recently become a photography buff. A longtime supporter of Chico's civil engineering program, Bob was one of the first to establish an endowment fund, the Robert W. Pillsbury Civil Engineering Endowment.

AutoCAD LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Jeff Matson

AutoCAD Land Development Desktop has been integrated into the Civil Engineering program at California State University, Chico. Examples of Land Development Desktop assignments from CE 10 and CE 11 are shown.



Land Development is available for student use in the Civil Engineering projects lab located in Langdon 120. CE 10 (Surveying), CE 11 (Introduction to Civil Engineering Design), and CE 198D (Special Topics) all offer AutoCAD Land Development education. James S. Scolaro said, "Use of Land Development is also encouraged in CE 270 (Transportation Engineering)."

Land Development Desktop was first offered at CSU, Chico in the Fall of 2001.

January 2004
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
ALUMNI REPLY FORM

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH NEWS!!! News and your 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 Spring 2004 CE Golf Tournament **TBA**
- Check if interested in assisting with **S04 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 2004/2005 Newsletter (employment, accomplishments, family, travel and/or general comments):

I would like to be a speaker on April 2, 2004 "Alumni Day in the Classroom" Yes _____ No _____

What classes (preference order) would you prefer:

1. _____	Employer: _____
2. _____	Type of Work: _____
3. _____	Business Telephone: (____) _____
4. _____	FAX Number: (____) _____
5. _____	

- Check if you or your employer would like to participate in the Civil Engineering Job Fair from 1:00-3:00 p.m. April 2, 2004
- 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.

I would like to purchase _____ shares of Concrete Canoe stock at \$5.00 per share: \$ _____

I would like _____ concrete canoe T-shirt(s) for a \$20.00 donation: \$ _____

Please specify size(s): S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____

Please make checks payable to: "ASCE STUDENT CHAPTER" Total: \$ _____

Please reserve _____ tickets for the Engineering Day Banquet on Saturday, April 3, 2004. (Cost TBA)

Check out our Canoe progress on the web! <http://www.csuchico.edu/asce>

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
CIVIL ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO

ATTN: C E NEWSLETTER
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT - 0930
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
400 W 1ST STREET
CHICO, CALIFORNIA 95928-9924

What are C E Alumni Doing Today?

Don Thomas '62 - 2002 was a great year! Don's daughter, Laura, gave them their first grandchild, a boy, in January. In August their son, Ed, and his wife gave them their second grandson. Two days after this event Don sold his business and was headed for retirement.

Daniel V. Neal '66 - Dan was recruited by Elliott Johnson through OSU. He remembers the junior and senior years at Chico - Koster, Johnson, Reyhner, Teasdale. Dan was a student and assisted in building the Fluid Lab. He remembers that Civil Engineering was first accredited when he was a junior/senior. Dan received one of the \$250 Ringel & Associates awards.

Dan has raised four great kids and now has three grandkids. For the last 16 years Dan has been employed at North Texas Municipal Water District. He is currently the Operations Office and still enjoys his work.

Klaus Klingenberg '75 - Klaus is enjoying retirement, puttering around the house and riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. His oldest daughter graduated with a BS in Mathematics from UC Davis and began working for E-Trade in April 2003. His youngest daughter has another year at UC Davis and then hopes to pursue a medical career after her BA degree in Spanish/ Psychology. Klaus' bride of 28 years is still moving up the corporate ladder at River City Bank in Sacramento. He is "very proud of all three!"

Alan W. O'Brien, '76 - In March 2000 Alan transferred from the Albuquerque office of Gannett Fleming to the Phoenix office to manage the water/wastewater group there. In July his wife, Debbie, and two children, Collin and Caitlyn, followed him. The family is enjoying their new home amid the lake and palms in Scottsdale Ranch (and they call this a desert!).

Rick Johnston '78 - Rick is working with the Florida Department of Transportation , trying to raise cows and wildflowers, raising and home

schooling his seven children. He is also trying to build an Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) house and he is still serving the Lord.

Diana Nicholaisen Steel '78 - Diana continues as Director of Public Works/City Engineer for the City of Ukiah. She toured Italy with a friend in October 2002. Her husband, Nick, works for Valley Paving and is also building up a small equipment excavation business with their ASV Positrac crawler/dozer.

David Day '81 - David started working for real estate developer A.D. Seeno last year. He has been managing a large 900 acre housing and commercial development in Vacaville called North Village. David has also been buying development parcels in the Bay Area and Hawaii with the intent of developing the properties in the future.

Mark Mathews '85 - Mark is still working for PG&E in Hydro Generation (pending outcome of bankruptcy court!) after 18 years. Mark moved from Chico in 2002, but not too far - just a little south to Durham, with wife, Annette, son, Danny (14) and daughter, Amanda (12).

Kit Miyamoto '89 - Kit is the CEO of Marr, Shaffer & Miyamoto Structural Engineers in Sacramento. The firm just opened an office in Los Angeles. Kit also teaches Earthquake Engineering at CSU, Sacramento as well as serving on the ASCE 7 Seismic Task Committee.

Carl Garrison '91 - is living in Mt. Vernon, Washington. He and his wife, Kris, are getting ready to move onto a piece of property they purchased a few years ago. They have a beautiful baby boy who turned one in February 2003. They run a company out of their house so they get to spend lots of time with him. All in all life is very good.

Mark Kinnear '92 - Passed away December 9, 2000.

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**REMINDER: Please return
the Reply form**



FACULTY
NOTES

Joel Arthur continues to advise the SEAOC student chapter which advanced to the national steel bridge competition for the sixth straight year last spring hosted by CSU San Diego. He has been conducting research on mechanical olive harvesters for the past few years with Ramesh Varahamurti in Mechanical Engineering and faculty in the College of Agriculture and is currently working on a \$250K project funded under the Agriculture Research Initiative. Current consulting activities include residential real estate development and construction. He is looking forward to a leave in academic year 2004-2005 to continue working on his research.

Tonya Emerson has kept herself busy the past year settling in to life in Chico. She has taken over as the faculty advisor for both Society of Women Engineers and American Society of Civil Engineers and hopes to build upon the strong traditions already in place. Having taught her 8th new course during the past fall semester, she is ready to settle in to some familiar courses and start incorporating additional teaching techniques into her established classes. On a personal note, Tonya purchased a "Chico Charmer" last spring and spent the summer gutting and remodeling the interior and hopes to get started on the back yard this spring. Any volunteers workers will be welcomed!

Tom Ferrara The fieldwork for the statewide attenuators inventory project for Caltrans was completed with no serious injuries. The fact that all our data are collected, all of our fine field crew are home safe, and sound, makes for a joyous new year. There was a great vacation traveling through Georgia and South Carolina in summer 2003. Since the ABET visit concluded during the fall semester, the year has been more relaxed. Now it seems to be time to complete traffic impact studies. For a state that is surviving on economic hard times, there certainly is considerable construction going on. Developers are anxious to have their projects approved and that is so good for traffic engineers and civil engineers.

Reed Gibby retired at the end of last summer and is now working in the private sector in the Reno area.

Ken Henkel has entered pre-retirement reduction-in-load program and is teaching at a 2/3 level. He and his wife, Anne, had two fantastic trips last summer. One was to Alaska and the other was to Japan. The Alaska trip was a sightseeing trip on

the Kenai Peninsula. The glaciers and scenery were incredible. If you get to Homer, check out the Coffee Cafe for a great meal. In Gifu City, Japan we visited our son Greg who was finishing up a two-year stint in the Jet program (teaching English in Japanese high schools). Greg was a great help since our Japanese language skills were very bad and nothing was in English. The most memorable part of the trip was the kindness and hospitality shown to us by Greg's friends (both Japanese and other Jet teachers).

Russ Mills After teaching on campus for over twenty years, Dr. Russ Mills is now working full-time in administration. He was elected by the department and appointed by the dean as the new chair of civil engineering. Russ served as department chair once previously, during academic year 1987-1988. Consequently, he knew what he was getting into (and, perhaps, should have known better this time). This amounts to a half-time appointment and combines with his position as the university-wide coordinator of general education (for the fourth consecutive year). Russ has also re-entered the realm of city politics with a third term on the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission - a hotbed for local controversy (really). In spite of these time demands, Russ and Leslie finally returned to Mexico after a ten-year respite, although this time with two young sons (which made for an extremely "enhanced" experience - como la vida loca).

Maurice Mow is enjoying the faculty early retirement program. His schedule is still full since he was elected as chairman of ASCE's Committee on Curriculum and Accreditation and he was also elected to serve on the body of Knowledge Committee of ASCE.

Of utmost in importance, Dr. Mow welcomed two new grandchildren. His family was blessed with the arrival of Marissa and Evan in May. Eric, who was two in September, is no longer the "only" grandchild. **Stew Oakley** traveled to Honduras four times during the last year as part of a long-term project on wastewater treatment and solid waste management. Last October he also presented a paper in Managua, Nicaragua on wastewater stabilization ponds for the Central American Regional Congress of the Interamerican Association of Sanitary Engineers.

James Scolaro has been assembling word choice comprehensive laboratory manuals for

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Doug Kobold '92 - has been with Sacramento County for three years and his life is still "trash". Eleven years in the Solid Waste Industry has been exciting and rewarding. Doug is still living in Davis with all those creative genetic folks.

Matt Darrow '93 - works for Sacramento County Department of Transportation in the Transportation Planning Division. Matt lives in Folsom, CA and has two children: Trevor, 4-year old son, and daughter, Alyssa, who is 1 year 9 months old.

C. Bryan Graves '97 - is working for Butte County Public Works doing road design, traffic calming implementation and general traffic engineering for the county. Bryan and his lovely wife of 6 ½ years were expecting their first child in March 2003.

Brian K. Mickelson '98 - is currently the Traffic Engineer for the City of Chico. He really enjoys his career and professional achievements. The most important of all and the most enjoyable part of his life is spending time with his family.

THE MESA ENGINEERING PROGRAM (MEP) AT CSU, CHICO

Felicia Gonzales

What is MEP? MEP is the Mathematical Engineering Science Achievement Program, better known as the MESA Engineering Program (MEP) at California State University, Chico. It is a student program that involves comprehensive recruitment along with development, retention, and graduation. The MESA Engineering Program assists disadvantaged students in the engineering and computer science disciplines. MEP is also a part of the MESA retention and pre-college programs, located in the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology (ECT).

Each year MEP offers financial assistance to CSU, Chico students. The program awards thousands of dollars in grants to participating MEP students. There are a number of scholarships available at \$3,125 each for two years from the National Science Foundation (NSF). In order to receive this grant, students must be Pell grant eligible and display active involvement in student organizations and a commitment to academic excellence.

By being involved in the MEP, there is also a great opportunity to give back to the community. The MESA Schools Program (MSP) hires qualified MEP students to serve as academic mentors for over 200 junior and senior high school students in the areas of Butte, Tehama and Colusa counties. The MSP mentors venture out to the local schools and work with pre-college MESA students. The goal of the mentor is to successfully motivate the junior and senior high students toward college, improve their math skills, and educate them about technology.

Another form of work experience offered through the MEP is the Students Obtaining Career Experience & Scholarships (SOCES). SOCES is a joint effort among the Civil Engineering Department, MEP, the Cooperative Education Program (CO-OP) and Industry/Agency sponsors. The goal is to help MESA students obtain valuable career work experience while providing additional financial support in the form of scholarships.

The MEP also offers students the opportunity to develop and enhance their leadership skills by becoming members of the following organizations: National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE); Latinos in Technical Careers (LTC), and: American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES).

The MEP is a program that provides many students with educational guidance, leadership development, academic advising and career exploration. For many students MEP is a useful tool toward successfully completing their college career.

FACULTY NOTES

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Surveying and Civil Engineering Design courses. Projects in the manual expose engineering students to: surveying, using total stations; creating terrain models; using Land Development Desktop, and; designing roadways using Civil Design. After completion, students stake out projects in the field to determine the success of their design. Of course, students work through rigorous lectures and lab assignments to develop basic skills, concepts and principles used to generate such a project without the aid of a computer.