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Department of Civil Engineering  
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December 2007

Dear Friends of Civil Engineering:

*Greetings to you from the Department of Civil Engineering at CSU, Chico.* As the year-end approaches, I am reminded to share news of the many changes that have occurred in the program over the past year. Watch for a more complete accounting in our newsletter early in 2008.

The most significant news is that the civil engineering program continues to grow with no end in sight – each year we set a new enrollment record. We currently have 335 majors, twice the number we had just six years ago! The university is also undergoing incredible growth and transition. More than 17,000 students enrolled at Chico State this semester!

Over the past year there were many personnel changes in the department. Tom Ferrara and Maurice Mow have now officially retired from the program, Joel Arthur has made a permanent move to the construction management program, and Tonya Emerson-Nilsson has left academia for professional practice. Office manager Linda Farrell retired and was replaced by Susan Ledgerwood, and we have four new full-time CE faculty members – DingXin Cheng, Steffen Mehl, Curt Haselton, and Charlie Roberts (we currently have hiring searches open for two more). Only Stew Oakley and I remain as the senior sages. Oh, and I'm back in the chair's office, after only a seven-month recess from the position.

I will take this opportunity to suggest that you consider making a year-end donation to the civil engineering program. Thanks to your donations, we can continue to provide a quality education in spite of an ongoing shortfall in state funding (in fact, we no longer refer to ourselves as a *state-funded university* – rather, we are *state-supported*).

Donations are used in many ways to help accomplish our educational mission. They are used for student scholarships to help offset the increasingly higher cost of attending CSU, Chico, to hire student assistants who conduct help sessions in key courses, and to provide travel funds to support student attendance at professional events, like the concrete canoe, the steel bridge, and Engineers Without Borders, among other things.

You may make a donation simply by sending us a check. The university will send back a receipt for tax purposes. If your intent is to support the civil engineering program, please always tell us that in writing on the check. This is especially important if you donate in response to a central campus fundraising effort. As always, your support will be greatly appreciated and will be put to good use.

Besides helping us with your donations, those of you who are civil engineering alumni can also help us with your time. We are returning to a traditional schedule for *Alumni Day in the Classroom*, as this event is scheduled for national Engineers Day on February 22, 2008. This is a terrific opportunity for alumni, new and not, to return to the campus to share their experiences since graduation. The following classes would benefit from guest speakers on this special day.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Audience</i>	<i>Time</i>
CIVL 311 Strength of Materials	(CE, ME, MECA)	11:00-11:50 AM and 12:00-12:50 PM
CIVL 313 Structural Mechanics	(CE)	12:00-12:50 PM
CIVL 321 Fluid Mechanics	(CE, ME, MECA)	8:00-8:50 AM
CIVL 431 Environmental Engineering	(CE)	8:00-8:50 AM
CIVL 441 Soil Mech. & Foundations	(CE)	1:00-1:50 PM
CIVL 554 Steel Design	(CE)	12:00-12:50 PM
CIVL 562 Engineering Hydrology	(CE)	9:00-9:50 AM

If you would like to participate, please contact us by phone (530-898-5342), email ([ce@csuchico.edu](mailto:ce@csuchico.edu)) or regular mail. When you do, please provide your name, a brief description of your work, a list of classes you prefer to visit, and a phone number (an email address is also helpful). We will then be in touch to schedule your visit. Your participation will be greatly appreciated by our students and faculty.

Be assured that the civil engineering program is as strong as ever. You can see for yourself at *Alumni Day in the Classroom* or by “visiting” us at our website and reading about some of our activities and accomplishments (<http://www.ecst.csuchico.edu/ce>).

Sincerely,



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