



School of Engineering

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY

News - February 2002

PROFILE

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering has a rich tradition in producing quality civil engineering graduates for industry and for graduate school. The department offers ABET accredited Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree with concentrations in structural, transportation, geotechnical, environmental/water resources and construction engineering. There are four full-time faculty and one part-time faculty teaching courses in the department. The department offers small classes with an average student to teacher ratio of 10:1. The faculty includes Dr. K. Madhavan, P.E., who has taught geotechnical, geoenvironmental computers, materials and computer courses during his 25-year tenure, Mr. Gene McGinnis, P.E., who has taught computer aided design courses, surveying, transportation and construction courses for the past 14 years, Dr. L. Yu Lin, P.E., who has taught environmental, water resources and computer courses for the past 12 years, and Mr. Fred Sock who began teaching courses in structural engineering, computers and mechanics two years ago for Dr. SiriPong Malasri, P.E. while he serves as Dean of the School of Engineering. Dr. Malasri continues to teach Statics and elective courses in the department. Dr. Malasri is serving in his 14th year at CBU. With such diverse faculty expertise, the department is able to teach a curriculum, which provides flexibility for students majoring in civil and environmental engineering. Mr. Gene McGinnis has served as Chair of the department for the past three years. All of the CEE faculty are engaged in consulting activities and have design experience.

Our graduates have performed very well in industry over the years, and our alumni are very willing to provide internships for our students. The majority of our students work for organizations in the public and private sector while attending CBU. Our graduates who have continued their education at the master's

level and beyond have found that their preparation was excellent. We currently have a former student finishing his Ph.D. at Stanford University.

Our students have historically fared very well in state and regional competitions against twenty to twenty-two other universities in the southeast. Since 1990, our students have received over twenty awards in these competitions. In addition, our students have received recognition for presenting papers and regional at local conferences.



For more information, please check the CEE department website at <http://www.cbu.edu/engineering/ceedept.html>. Professor Gene McGinnis, department chairman, can be reached at (901) 321-3279 or gmcginni@cbu.edu.

TEE TIME IS APRIL 15

It's the first Annual CBU School of Engineering Golf Tournament. The event will be at the Memphis National Golf Club, 10135 National Club Drive, Collierville, TN, 1:00 p.m. The cost will be \$75 per person or \$300 per team of four players. If you are interested in sponsoring a student at the tournament, please contact Dr. Siripong Malasri at (901) 321-3419 or pong@cbu.edu. More details of the tournament will be provided in the next issue of the engineering newsletter. This will be a fun event, which will give our CBU Engineering family members an opportunity to get together.



2002 ENGINEERS WEEEK NEWS

As part of the Engineers Week Celebration, the School of Engineering recognized several outstanding engineering students and faculty. This year, departmental award recipients were:

- **Dana McFerrin** - Featured Chemical/Biochemical Engineering Student
- **Dr. Asit Ray** - Featured Chemical/Biochemical Engineering Faculty
- **Jason Deweber** - Featured Civil/Environmental Engineering Student
- **Dr. L. Yu Lin, P.E.** - Featured Civil/Environmental Engineering Faculty
- **Andrew Howard** - Featured Electrical/Computer Engineering Student
- **Dr. Fred Terry, P.E.** - Featured Electrical/Computer Engineering Faculty
- **Alan Rezach** - Featured Mechanical Engineering Student
- **Mr. Roland Raffanti** - Featured Mechanical Engineering Faculty
- **Mr. Craig Blackman** - Featured Engineering Management Faculty



The School of Engineering also recognized **Jason Deweber** and **Mr. Roland Raffanti** as the school's featured engineering students and faculty, respectively. **Mr. Gene McGinnis**, CEE Department Chairman presented the award to Jason at the Engineers Week Banquet on February 21, 2002, at the Southwest Tennessee Community College. The Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) hosted the banquet. Roland was recognized at the Engineers Week Kick-Off Luncheon on February 18, 2002, at the Airport Raddison Hotel. The Engineers Club of Memphis hosted the luncheon. Both awards are part of the Engineers Week recognition of the Memphis Joint Engineers Council.



Gene McGinnis (left) presented the 2002 CBU Featured Engineering Student to Jason Deweber (right)

At the Engineers Week Banquet, the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers recognized two CBU Engineering alumni. **Laura Pearson-Bran** (ME'90) of Ensafe was named the 2002 TSPE Young Engineer of the Year from the Memphis Chapter of TSPE. Also at the same event, **Bobby Fisher, P.E.** (CE'70) of Fisher & Arnold, Inc., was recognized with the 2002 TSPE Distinguished Service Award.



Laura Pearson-Bran (right) at the 2002 Engineers Week Banquet

Congratulations to all award recipients and thanks for their good work and contributions to the school and/or engineering profession. Profiles of Jason Deweber, Roland Raffanti, Laura Pearson-Bran, and Bobby Fisher will be forthcoming in the March issue.

MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide program designed to answer the problem of declining math skills among U.S. students. The MATHCOUNTS program targets 7th and 8th graders who are at a crucial stage in developing and sustaining interest and ability in math. The 2002 Memphis Regional Mathcounts Competition was held on February 2 by the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE). Thanks to the following CBU students, faculty, and alumni for helping at this year's event: **Brandon Cartwright, Shane DeLima, Lisa Lavie, Siripong Malasri, Gieselle Mendonca, Hai Nguyen, Stephany Ogbonmwan, Matt Osborne, Laura Pearson-Bran, Tom Stoll, and John Ventura.**



ALUMNI NEWS

Attention Engineering Alumni! We need your help... We need volunteers to call prospective yet accepted students who are interested in pursuing an engineering major on Monday, March 4 from 6-9 p.m. at CBU. Volunteers will share their CBU engineering experience and their work experience with the student (and sometimes the parents!) during the calls. It's fun and it is extremely helpful in securing the best and brightest students for CBU. A mix of disciplines is needed. Please contact **Shawna Engel** in the Alumni Office at alumni@cbu.edu or 321-3254 to volunteer.

Congratulations to **Keith Payne** (MEM'99) for passing the PE exam in Control Systems Engineering last October.

Zonk Lanzillo, Jr. (EE'60) became a great-grandfather for the second time. Rachel Lynn Horffener was born on December 26th at 5:30 a.m. and weighed 7 lb. 5 oz. Congratulations!

David Finnie (CEE'99) is currently working as a construction superintendent for Beers Skanska, Inc. on the new NFL Football Stadium in Houston, Texas. His responsibilities include overseeing daily construction activities and managing work forces, facilitating all work associated with the interior of the structure, and resolving other problems that arise. The project cost is close to \$400 million dollars. He started working for the company full time immediately after his graduation from CBU in 1999 on the Memphis Redbirds AAA Ballpark. Later he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where the company built a \$180 million dollar Cargo Sorting Facility for DHL

Worldwide Express. He said recently, *"I love what I do. While this line of work does not include the calculations and design work I learned at CBU, all principles we studied are used daily and I am at a definite advantage having a civil engineering degree."*



NFL Football Stadium in Houston, Texas

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