

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is always interested in how our alumni are doing. We hope you will take time to complete the Alumni Update information below. Please include information on your recent professional and personal developments, along with a high-quality photo if available. Please email your information to [jmueller@lsu.edu](mailto:jmueller@lsu.edu) or mail submissions to *Civil and Environmental Engineering, Louisiana State University, 3418 Patrick Taylor Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-6405.*

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Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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Louisiana State University  
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# LSU

Foundation of Excellence Program

# CEE NEWS

LSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Newsletter

Volume 8

Spring Issue

May 2009

## Message from the Chair



It is my pleasure to announce to you that we recently gained approval of our new programs in coastal engineering at the University level and it has been submitted to the LSU System's office. The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering will soon offer a Masters in Coastal and Ecological Engineering and a PhD in Coastal Engineering Science. The process for establishing these two new programs has been long and tedious, but we are excited with this expansion to our program.

The Department has also inducted four more members into our Hall of Distinction. The 2008 inductees are Robert A. "Bob" Deason, CEO of J. Ray McDermott, and the late Dr. Frank J. Germano, for whom our Frank J. Germano Design and Computation Center is named. The 2009 inductees are John A. Graves, CEO of Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. and Dr. Mehmet T. Tümay, Georgia Gulf Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. These four inductees were honored at our recent Hall of Distinction Banquet, where they were joined by past inductees, department faculty and staff, and friends of the department. Please join us in congratulating these fine individuals for their stalwart contributions to Engineering Excellence. Also recognized at our annual banquet were two outstanding faculty members. Dr. Q. Jim Chen was presented with the annual Distinguished Research Faculty Award and Dr. Donald D. Adrian was presented with a Career Achievement Award. Both serve as excellent examples of the outstanding dedication of our faculty to the department and its standing as a Foundation of Excellence Program. Our department's success would not be possible without dedicated faculty and staff.

The Department is also preparing for an ABET accreditation visit in Fall 2009. We thank all of you who took the time to complete the surveys. These surveys help us to identify strengths and challenges in our pro-

gram which we are always striving to improve. ABET accreditation is vital to the department, its students, employers of our graduates and other constituencies. This accreditation involves a continuous improvement process which ensures our curricula in Civil and Environmental Engineering are relevant and meet the expectations of the profession. But as a Foundation of Excellence program, our department continues to strive to rise above expectations and minimum requirements, establishing ourselves firmly as the best program in the region with superb national and international recognition. The past six years since the last ABET visit have seen the department make outstanding strides towards those goals but we have recognized that there will always be room for improvement.

This academic year, seven of our faculty members were able to engage in over one million dollars each in research grants and contracts jointly with other faculty members. Cumulatively, they have secured over eight million dollars jointly with other faculty. In addition, two of our faculty members were able to attract two transportation centers to LSU. One of our faculty members is currently involved in over three and one half million dollars in educational related grants. The Department has been very busy this year in all aspects of teaching, research and outreach activities.

In closing, more and more of our alumni are getting informed and involved and supporting the CEE Department. I invite you to join us to help us successfully complete the Forever LSU Campaign.

Best Regards,  
Dr. George Z. Voyiadjis  
*Boyd Professor, Chair  
and Bingham C. Stewart  
Distinguished Professor*

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## Bridge Design Students Visit Casting Yard

Students from the Bridge Design project Course (CE4460) went on a field trip to a prestressed casting yard in Baton Rouge. Boykin Brothers, Inc., kindly invited the students and their instructor, Mr. Paul Fossier, P.E., to see the techniques and steps used for prestressing concrete structures. The casting yard produces precast components for various project types, but the students were interested in precast prestressed concrete bridge girders and bridge piling. The students are required to complete a semester design project by working in project teams in CE 4460 for an actual bridge replacement project that utilizes prestressed girders and piles. They were guided in the tour by Mr. Sam Greenwood with Boykin Brothers, who gave the students a detailed step-by-step description of the production process. The plant is currently producing bridge piling and girders for the La. 1 toll bridge near Leesville, LA. For the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Field trips provide students with a feel to what they are designing in classrooms. Their exposure to real life environments makes them better engineers as they better understand the challenges that contractors face.



## LWEA Lake Cleanup Event

Large piles of trash were collected from the University on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, in a lakes cleanup event executed by the Student Chapter of the Louisiana Water and Environment Federation (LWEA) incoming student officers Rachael Truit (President) and Daniel Alt (Vice president). Experienced outgoing officers Mallorie Albrecht and Kevin Chenier organized the cleanup. The event conducted at the newly renovated Baton Rouge Beach netted several tires, some large pipe sections, and a fully functional, but seriously slimed ten speed bike. The event involved about 50 undergraduate students from the Environmental, Biological, Civil and Chemical Engineering Departments, and was supervised by Dr. Ron Malone (CE Professor) and his wife Sandy. Local chef and volunteer, Ty Dick, (Lazy Cajun, LLC.) grilled chicken, hog, deer and alligator for the students. Dr. Michele Barbarto (CE Assistant Professor) provided structure to the event. Life vest equipped EVEG student David Brassset surveyed the lake bottom with his feet (its deeper than we thought) after flipping a canoe in the middle of the lake. All in all, the event was a success.

## YES, count me in!

I want to donate to the:

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Raphael G. Kazmann Center for Graduate Studies

Other (please designate) \_\_\_\_\_

Here's my contribution of:

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**LSU Foundation/Civil & Environmental Engineering**

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*Please fill out the information on the back of this form also.*  
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## THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING WELCOMES DR. RICHARD KOUBEK, NEW DEAN



Effective June 1st, Dr. Richard Koubek will step in as the new Dean of the College of Engineering. Dr. Koubek comes from The Pennsylvania State University, where he served as professor and as head of the Harold and Inge Marcus Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. Prior to his time at Penn State, Dr. Koubek held teaching, research and leadership positions at Wright State University and Purdue University. He earned bachelor's degrees from Oral Roberts University (Tulsa, OK) and from Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago) and earned his master's degree and PhD in industrial engineering from Purdue University. He has also co-authored numerous journal articles, book chapters and books and has given invited presentations at venues across the globe, including the U.K., China and Japan. He has a number of teaching and research awards to his credit, has served in an editorial role and as a referee for several scientific journals and trade publications in his field and has served as a proposal reviewer for the National Science Foundation, NASA and the Office of Naval Research.

## JANET LABATUT RECEIVES CAREER SERVICE CONTRIBUTION AWARD



Janet Labatut, Administrative Program Specialist for the CEE Undergraduate Office, was presented with a 2009 Career Service Contribution Award at a faculty meeting held on Monday, May 4th. Mrs. Labatut has been working at LSU for 24 years and joined the department in 1988. This award was bestowed upon Mrs. Labatut for her career-long contributions to the Department. Her notable effort over the years have provided essential support to Louisiana State University, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, it's faculty, and it's students. Mrs. Labatut has contributed enormously towards the coordination and management of undergraduate and administrative affairs within the department. She has also provided guidance, support, and encouragement for scores of LSU CEE students over the course of her career. Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Labatut on receiving this award.

## TENURE AND PROMOTION



**Drs. Okeil and Tsai** were Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professors in CEE to the Board of the LSU System. **Drs. Chen and Sharma** were also Tenured in CEE. **Drs. Wilmot and Wolshon** were promoted to Full Professors in CEE. Please join the department in congratulating them for these major accomplishments in their professional development.



**Clifford J. Mugnier**, Instructor in CE, was invited to present a seminar on Military Geodesy with respect to Grids and Datums used for Effects-Based Targeting at the Joint Warfare Analysis Center (JWAC) in Dahlgren, Virginia in early January. JWAC is a premier science and engineering institution tasked with solving complex challenges for our nation's warfighters. JWAC uses social

and physical science techniques and engineering expertise to assist warfighters in support of our national security. JWAC coordinates directly with the staffs of all Unified Commands, Combatant Commands, Department of Defense elements, military services, and other government departments and agencies in order to protect our country and help our nation's armed forces accomplish their missions. The series of lectures was attended by the civilian and commissioned officer staff of the center, and Cliff was later presented with the Commander's coin in an award ceremony after conclusion of the lecture series. A Commander's Call at the Officer's Club concluded the meetings.



**Dr. Mostafa Elseifi** received a contract of \$165,000 for his proposal entitled *Cost Effective Prevention of Reflective Cracking of Composite Pavement* from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) through the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC). This research study will evaluate the performance of pavement sections across the state built with various treatment methods and to determine the most cost-effective techniques to delay or to prevent reflection cracking in composite pavements.



## CEE ANNUAL FACULTY AWARDS

At the 2009 CE Hall of Distinction Banquet, Dr. Q. Jim Chen, Associate Professor, was presented with an annual Faculty Research Achievement Award which recognizes significant achievements in research. Dr. Donald Dean Adrian was also presented with a Career Achievement Award. He is currently the Rubicon Professor of Engineering, Effie C. and Donald M. Hardy Professor in Engineering and Graduate Advisor.



**Dr. Mostafa Elseifi and Dr. Louay Mohammad** received a grant from the Board of Regents Research Competitiveness Subprogram for \$119,000 to develop and validate a heterogeneous-based modeling approach to describe the constitutive behavior of asphalt concrete.

## ASCE 2009 MOISSEIFF AWARD



**Dr. Michele Barbato** and co-authors Drs. Alessandro Zona and Joel P. Conte received the **ASCE 2009 Moisseiff Award** for the

paper "Nonlinear Seismic Response Analysis of Steel-Concrete Composite Frames", (*Journal of Structural Engineering* ASCE, 134(6):986-997, June 2008), as an "important contribution to the knowledge of the dynamic response of composite steel-concrete structures".

The Moisseiff Award is a profession-wide recognition of a paper of merit published by ASCE "dealing with the broad field of structural engineering including applied mechanics, theoretical analysis or constructive improvement of engineering structures of any structural material". The award was established in 1947 in recognition of the accomplishments of Leon S. Moisseiff, M. ASCE, a notable contributor to the science and art of structural engineering.

The award was presented at the Structures Congress 2009, Austin (TX), April 30, 2009.

## CEE FALL 2008 COMMENCEMENT

Catherine Taylor Persac graduated **Summa Cum Laude**, an honor bestowed upon students who graduate with a grade point average between 3.9 and 4.0. Allison Marie Vinson graduated **Cum Laude**, an honor bestowed upon students who graduate with a grade point average between 3.70 and 3.79.

### Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

James Allen Ball Jr.	Benjamin Alan Goodner	Mark Edward Hoa LeBlanc	Catherine Taylor Persac
Steven Craig Berniard	Ryan Christopher Gunnell	David Alan Martin	Robert Egli Rousset
Travis Benjamin Byland	Amanda Leigh Hamlin	Brandt Jameson Meyer	Timothy Andrew Sears
Rudy Michael Crnko	Caleb Thomas Harper	Jason Wayne Miles	David Samuel Underwood
Jarrod Raymond Ferran	Alexander Henry Herbin	Matthew Killeen Morales	James Paul Vincent
Jason Daniel Field	Wesley Paul Juneau	Mai Xuan Nguyen	Allison Marie Vinson
Tye Ellis Fitzgerald	Frank Robert Kolwe III	Vi Khanh Nguyen	
Toby F. Garcia	Michael Prescott Laughlin	Brandon Joseph Nissing	

### Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering

Samuel Taylor Best

### Master of Science in Civil Engineering

Ananth Bukkapatnam Tirumala	Hoonshin Jung	Changjiang Shen
Samuel Booth Cooper Jr.	Gerald Maksim Pekmezi	Bharath Kumar Sridhar

### Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering

**Haibo Cao** "Fate and Transport of Microorganisms in Coastal Subsurface-Experiment and Modeling" (Formosa Plastics Corporation Endowed Professor Kelly A. Rusch and Assistant Professor Frank Tsai)

**Xiaobao Li** "Bayesian Model Averaging on Hydraulic Conductivity Estimation and Groundwater Head Prediction" (Assistant Professor Frank Tsai)

**Stephen Emmanuel Mbuligwe** "Optimization of Treatment of Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compound Mixtures in Constructed Wetlands: Vegetarian and Substrate Effects" (Elizabeth Howell Stewart Endowed Professor John H. Pardue)

**Borja Servan Camas** "Lattice Boltzmann Modeling for Mass Transport Equations in Porous Media" (Assistant Professor Frank Tsai)



## TRAVEL AWARD WINNER

**Seth Bradley** (pictured left), a senior Civil Engineering Student received a travel award from the Aquacultural Engineering Society which allowed him to present his paper entitled "Ammonia excretion and oxygen consumption rates of juvenile pompano fed six different experimental poultry by-products diets" at the Aquaculture Americas 2009 Conference in Seattle, Washington this spring. This paper reported his work as a summer intern with the Agricultural Research Service in their Marine Research Center at Harbor Branch on the east coast of Florida. The data he developed defined kinetic constants that are now being used in computer models to assess the feasibility of rearing marine fish, such as the pompano, in high density tank systems. Seth expects to continue to develop his interest in computer modeling by pursuing graduate work in the Water Resource area next year.

## STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION WINNER

Yan Qi, a Ph.D. candidate working with Dr. Sherif Ishak, won the first place in the Student Paper Competition for the 2nd International Symposium on Freeway and Tollway Operations to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii on June 21-24, 2009. The conference is sponsored by the Freeway Operations Committee of the Transportation Research Board (TRB). Local and international students participated in this competition. As a winner, Yan Qi will receive a \$3000 award to cover her travel expenses to the conference to present her research work. The title of her paper and presentation is "Effect of Truck Lane Restriction and Differential Speed Limit on Traffic Characteristics of Four-Lane Rural Highway."

## Drs. Louay Mohammad and Mostafa Elseifi Receive NCHRP Award

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) awarded Dr. Louay Mohammad and Dr. Mostafa Elseifi \$500,000 for their proposal titled Field versus Laboratory Volumetrics and Mechanical Properties. The objectives of this study are (1.) quantify sources and causes of variability in the measurements of volumetric and mechanical properties of dense-graded asphalt mixtures for three types of specimens that may be encountered in QA and mix design activities (laboratory mixed and compacted, plant mixed and laboratory compacted, and plant mixed and field compacted, and (2.) develop a recommended practice for state DOTs to incorporate these results in specifications and criteria for (a) quality assurance; (b) mix design and verification or validation, and (c) structural design and forensic studies.



## Development of Sustainable Fortified CMU Walls Under Explosive Loading

**Dr. Hak-Chul Shin**

*Pre- and Post-view of CMU walls in explosive loading*

The September 11 attack by terrorists dramatically exposed the vulnerability of the US civilian and military infrastructure to explosive loads. Explosive loads can damage not only the infrastructure, but also result in civilian and military casualties due to explosive debris and progressive collapse. To minimize casualties from the explosive loads, it is desirable to strengthen and make the key members ductile. The fortified members of structures can eliminate or minimize the intrusion of explosive debris into the inside of structures. Making the key elements ductile can prevent or delay progressive collapse of the structure so that occupants can have more time to escape from the damaged structures.

The objectives of this project are to measure fracture parameters in bi-material interface under HSR loading, develop a mechanical modeling of the failure mechanism, and provide strategies to develop sustainable fortified CMU wall against intrusion of explosive debris. A servo-hydraulic HSR testing system with 80 kN (17.9 kips) capacity will be used to test fortified CMU walls. The HSR system can produce high strain rate loading up to 25 m/s (81 ft/sec), and will be used to simulate explosive (blast) and impact loading in fortified CMU walls. Debonding and shearing at the interface will be measured by high speed data acquisition system and pictured using a high speed camera. By understanding the debonding and slipping behavior at the interface, a mechanical model predicting the failure behavior at the bi-material interface will be developed. Finally a sustainable bi-material composite structure against explosive and impact loadings can be developed. The research project is funded by the Department of Defense, and will be collaborated with US Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

This project has a superior component by having the PI in a unique position to work at both LSU and Southern University. It will bring a great research experience for Southern University students by working with state-of-the-art HSR testing system, make Civil Engineering as a research competitive program, and retain good students.

from preliminary planning and feasibility studies, through final engineering design and construction. His work experience includes property and engineering assessments for site selection, project management, transportation planning and analysis, boundary and topographic site surveys, and civil site engineering. Mr. Graves has worked on a multitude of engineering projects for clients representing the petrochemical industry, national retail companies, industrial parks, recreational facilities, hospital and institutional complexes, residential development, utility companies, as well as local, state and federal government. Mr. Graves frequently serves as a court expert providing research and testimony in his field of expertise.



2009

**Mehmet T. Tümay**, Fellow and a Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, is the Georgia Gulf Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Louisiana State University. He has been an active LSU Faculty 1976-2005, and has served the LSU College of Engineering as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, and as Director of the Donald W. Clayton Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Engineering Science, 1997 –2004. Dr. Tümay received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from Robert College School of Engineering, University of Virginia, and Istanbul Technical University, respectively. His academic, research and consulting affiliations include universities, research institutions, and industry in the U.S., The Netherlands, France, Turkey, Korea, Norway, Taiwan, Poland, Brazil and People's Republic of China.

Dr. Tümay is currently a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Korean Advanced Institute for Science and Technology (KAIST) in Deajon, S. Korea, and an Adjunct Professor at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey.

Dr. Tümay's major field of interest is geotechnical engineering. He has done extensive research for the past 40 years in the areas of in-situ evaluation of engineering properties of soils, soil physico-chemical behavior, and novel methods of soil improvement. He has earned national and international recognition from the consulting and academic communities for his pioneering research accomplishments, mainly in electronic cone penetration and computer-aided data collection/reduction systems for evaluation of the engineering behavior of geomedia. He was recently recognized "for outstanding contributions to the profession, research and education in geotechnical engineering," at the GeoShanghai 2006 International Conference in Shanghai, China, June 2006.

Dr. Tümay has served as Project Director / Principal Investigator of numerous grants from prestigious national and international agencies, a major international consulting company from the Netherlands, established the Fugro Post-Doctoral Fellowship at LSU dedicated to the advancement of in-situ testing under Dr. Tümay's supervision.

During 1990-1994 Dr. Tümay served as the Director of the Geomechanical, Geotechnical & Geo-Environmental Systems (G3S) program at the National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C

In 1994, Dr. Tümay was appointed as the Director of Research at Louisiana Transportation Research. During his tenure, LTRC was awarded research grants and contracts from the NSF, National Cooperative Highway Research Program, Federal Highway Administration, Priority Technologies Program, U.S.C.E. Waterways Experiment Station, and private industry.

Dr. Tümay has done extensive design and consulting for state, private, national and international agencies. And he has conducted special workshops and seminars worldwide. He has served as Maitre de Conference en Mechanique des Sols, Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussees, Paris, France, and as an Advisory Professor to Tongji University, Shanghai, P.R. China, and Federal University of Vicosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil. He is active in various professional organizations. He has served and continues to serve as chairperson or as a member of a number of national and international technical committees as well as member of editorial boards of professional journals.

Dr. Tümay served as a charter member of the Academic Research Council of the Civil Engineering Research Foundation 1995-2002, and represented LTRC on the National Council for Civil Engineering Research. He was a member of The Engineer and Surveyor Selection Board, City of Baton Rouge Parish, 2004 –2006. He was selected as Louisiana State University's recipient of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation Faculty Professionalism Award for 2001. His scholarly activities include more than 150 published scientific articles, and contributions to numerous conferences and symposia.

Dr. Germano was Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of the American Society for Engineering Education as well as the Louisiana Engineering Society. He was inducted into Tau Beta Pi and Chi Epsilon societies as well as Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi.

Dr. Germano continued to carry a half-time teaching load during his years as department head. The professor's interest in his students extended beyond the classroom, and he took an active interest in many student organizations within the LSU College of Engineering.

Moreover, he constantly served as counselor, advisor, and close personal friend to countless students. Dr. Germano received three major awards for his teaching performance. These include the LSU Foundation's Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, the Halliburton Award for Teaching Excellence, and a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the Louisiana section of the American Society of Civil Engineers for his contributions to engineering education. He was often overheard saying, "(There is) never a day that don't look forward to going into the classroom." After his retirement in 1976, Dr. Germano returned to the classroom, becoming the first retired faculty member on the LSU campus to resume regular teaching without pay. Fluent in Italian and Spanish, he was an exchange Fulbright Professor and lectured for one year at the Politecnico de Milano in Milan, Italy. He was also visiting professor at the University of Nicaragua.

Dr. Germano passed away on October 27, 1983, and is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alma Germano, of Baton Rouge, who received her bachelor's degree in home economics from LSU, and his children, Charles Germano with IBM in New Orleans, Andria Hathorn with IBM in San Francisco, and Carolyn Schneider with Concord Risk Services in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Dr. Germano was a premier teacher, motivator, and a builder of character. He loved teaching both the fundamentals and the practical aspects of engineering. He molded and motivated hundreds of students across all engineering disciplines with his teaching, his wit, and his enthusiasm, as well as his genuine warmth. He was committed to students and to their preparation as engineering professionals. All those whose lives he touched through classroom, social or professional associations speak of him with the highest regard.

The College of Engineering has established the Frank J. Germano Design and Computation Center to pay tribute to this great man. Appropriately, former students made the first gifts that led to the computer-design laboratory created mainly for undergraduate students in civil engineering. The Center located at 2412 Patrick F. Taylor Hall, was formally dedicated on November 16, 1989.

**John A. Graves** was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and, at age six, moved to Opelousas. He graduated from what is now Opelousas Catholic in a pre-college curriculum. Mr. Graves lost his father as a junior in high school which necessitated his having to provide 100% of his college expenses. Having been inspired by President Kennedy's challenge to put men on the moon, John was drawn to Aeronautical Engineering at LSU and enrolled as a freshman in the fall of 1959. Aeronautical Engineering was replaced by Civil Engineering as John believed he would not like the work environment for AE and might prefer more outdoors as offered by civil. Larry McKee gave John his first job in the engineering business as a rodman in a field survey crew. Maintaining a full time job while attending school he graduated from LSU in the spring of 1965 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. With his sights set on being in the consulting engineering business John spent the next year or so taking selective, mostly graduate level course work in Business Administration.

Mr. Graves' first regular full time job was with Edward E. Evans & Associates in 1968. Mr. Evans, a former LSU professor of structural engineering, founded the firm in 1953. He credits Mr. Evans as an excellent "teacher" from whom he learned a great deal beginning with structural work on the LSU Maravich Assembly Center. In the early 70's believing that he had serious health problems, which he didn't, Mr. Evans effectively turned over the day to day operation of the firm to John.

In 1986 Mr. Graves acquired full ownership of the firm at which time the name was changed to the current Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc.

Mr. Graves has over 40 years experience in private consulting as a Civil Engineer, Surveyor and Administrator. Over 35 years of that period has been spent as a Principal of Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc., responsible for plan production and management of all phases of projects undertaken by the firm;



2009

## DR. SONG-KAI YAN ELECTED FELLOW OF ASCE



Dr. Song-Kai Yan, CE Ph.D. graduate of 1989, was elected Fellow of ASCE. Dr. Yan is currently the senior staff consultant and director of hydrology and hydraulics at Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc. where he specializes in surface water hydrology and hydraulics modeling and in hydraulic engineering design. Dr. Yan is a former Ph.D. student of Dr. D. Dean Adrian of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He is also a member of the LSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering External Advisory Board and serves as an adjunct professor of engineering, also here in the department. The CEE department congratulates Dr. Yan on this outstanding accomplishment.

## PASSING OF ALUM ERIN K. LAHR



Erin Krielow Lahr received her bachelor of science in Environmental Engineering in 2001 and a master of science in Civil Engineering in 2003. She moved to Austin, Texas in Fall 2003 and worked for PBSJ in the Water/Wastewater design division until her death. Erin received her PE designation in late 2007 in the state of Texas.

Erin died on December 14th, 2008 near the 23.5 mile point while running the Dallas White Rock marathon. She was 29. Erin's goal was to qualify for the Boston Marathon and race officials estimate that had she completed the race she would have accomplished her goal. Erin was an avid runner and triathlete who completed the Austin marathon in February 2008 as well as several half-marathons and sprint triathlons. She was also training to compete in the Ironman 70.3 competition that was held in New Orleans in April 2009.

Erin was married to Jeff Lahr, BS in Civil Engineering from LSU (2000), in April 2007. The two entered married life following a wedding and reception on the LSU campus. Erin was a rabid LSU fan and cheered her beloved Tigers whenever the opportunity arose. Erin was a member of the Golden Band from Tigerland during her Freshman and Sophomore years at LSU.

She is survived by many friends and a loving family who will miss her dearly. Her loving husband Jeff has established an endowed scholarship in her name in the LSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, funded by gifts from family, co-workers and friends. Special thanks to Erin's company, PBS&J for their wonderful support. Others desiring to contribute to this scholarship may do so- please contact Don Eisenberg via [eisenberg@lsu.edu](mailto:eisenberg@lsu.edu) or 225-578-2441.

If you are a CEE graduate and have news that you would like to share, please email your news and a high-resolution photo (if available) to Julie Mueller at [jmueller@lsu.edu](mailto:jmueller@lsu.edu)

## PASSING OF ALUM CHARLES FRAZIER



Charles Frazier, CEE Alum, passed away in a recent car accident. Charles graduated from LSU in 1999. While at LSU, he served as president of the National Society for Black Engineers.

While at LSU and after his graduation Charles worked at the engineering firm of ABMB in Baton Rouge. After which he and wife Stephanie (whom he met while attending LSU) moved to Dallas, Texas where he worked at the engineering firm of HNTB. After graduation, they moved to Dallas upon graduation, where he worked at the engineering firm of HNTB. After a few years in Dallas, they moved to Barcelona, Spain where he worked for the engineering firm of ALG. While at ALG, Charles was in charge of Global Development for the firm and traveled to many countries, including India, Bahamas, Guatemala, Turkey Georgia, Russia and South Africa to develop business and work on projects for the firm.

Charles was on a business trip in South Africa where he passed away in a car accident. Charles was incredibly respected for his knowledge of engineering and his ability to want to bring improvements to some of the less developed areas of the world. He is survived by his wife Stephanie and young son Anselm. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.



*Pictured (front row, starting from left): Dr. Elvin Dantin (presenter), Dr. Mehmet T. Tümay (inductee), Robert Deason (inductee), John Graves (inductee), Charles Germano (son of inductee Dr. Frank Germano), Andrea Hawthorn (daughter of inductee Dr. Frank Germano), Ara Arman (presenter). Pictured (back row, starting from left): Ron Cambre (presenter) and Dr. George Voyiadjis (CEE Dept. Chair)*

## 2009 Hall of Distinction Banquet



*Above: Dr. George Voyiadjis (CEE Dept. Chair) and Dr. Astrid Merget (Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost)*

**On** April 17, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel in Baton Rouge, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering held their annual Hall of Distinction and Faculty Awards banquet. In addition to current and past inductees, attendees included Dr. George Voyiadjis (Department Chair), Dr. Astrid Merget (Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost), Dr. Richard Koubek (incoming Dean of the College of Engineering) and Dr. David Constant (Interim Dean of the College of Engineering). The 2008 Hall of Distinction inductees are Robert A. "Bob" Deason and the late Dr. Frank J. Germano. The 2009 inductees are John A. Graves and Dr. Mehmet T. Tümay. It is our great pleasure to welcome these four outstanding gentlemen to our Hall of Distinction. Including the four recent inductees, the CEE Hall of Distinction is now comprised of 20 members.

Also recognized at this annual banquet were two Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty members. Dr. Q. Jim Chen, Associate Professor, was presented with an annual Faculty Achievement Award which recognizes significant achievements in research. Dr. Chen joined the Department in 2006 and specializes in near shore hydrodynamic modeling and coastal engineering. Dr. Donald Dean Adrian, Rubicon Professor of Engineering, Effie C. and Donald M. Hardy Professor in Engineering and Graduate Advisor, was presented with a Career Achievement Award. Dr. Adrian joined the Department in 1986 and specializes in environmental and water resource engineering. The Department congratulates Dr. Chen and Adrian on their awards and thanks them for their outstanding service to the Department.



2008

**Robert A. "Bob" Deason**, President and Chief Executive Officer of J. Ray McDermott, is a native of Natchitoches, Louisiana. He graduated from Natchitoches High School in 1963 and he attended Northwestern State College his freshman year. He then transferred to Louisiana State University as a chemistry major. In 1966 he left LSU and joined the U.S. Marine Corp. After serving a tour in Vietnam he returned to LSU and received a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering in 1970. He also received an Executive MBA from the University of Michigan.

After graduation Deason joined Texas Eastern Transmission Company involved in development of natural gas and petroleum pipelines throughout the U.S. Between 1975 and 1985 he worked for several companies involved in engineering and project management for the upstream oil and gas industry. During this period he also served as the Deputy Project Manager responsible for Operating and Maintenance for the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

In 1985 he joined Fluor, a major EPC contractor, helping develop their pipeline services business. During his 18 years at Fluor Bob had increasing responsibility in Fluor's Upstream Oil and Gas business, their Chemical, Plastic and Fibers business, and their Refining and Petrochemical business.

He was responsible for numerous major EPC projects throughout the world. Since leaving LSU Bob has had responsibility for petroleum-related projects in many places around the globe. In addition to the US these include Nigeria, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Russia and Azerbaijan, just to name a few.

Bob joined J. Ray McDermott in 2003 returning to his offshore roots. J. Ray McDermott is a pioneer in offshore oil and gas development with strong roots in Louisiana. JRay was suffering through a period of poor project performance and disastrous financial results. The ability of this 60 year-old company to survive was in doubt.

After joining JRay Bob implemented strict controls and project management discipline. The organization was upgraded. During Bob's tenure the company returned to its previous leadership position in the offshore industry with significant growth, with current revenue in excess of \$3 Billion. Today JRay has significant operations in the U.S., Middle East, Asia Pacific and the Caspian and operates numerous offshore construction vessels around the world.

Deason is active in several industry related organizations and serves on the Boards of National Ocean Industries Association and International Pipeline and Offshore Contractors Association. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Louisiana.

Mr. Deason is married to the former Dagmar Sauce also of Natchitoches and they have three children and five grandchildren. Bob and Dagmar reside in Houston, Texas.



2008

**Frank J. Germano** was born and raised in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, where he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering and the Ph.D. of civil engineering degree in 1934. Upon graduating, he worked as an assistant design engineer for the Metropolitan District of Hartford, Connecticut.

He joined Louisiana State University in 1936 as an instructor in the Engineering Mechanics Department, realizing his ambition to teach. "Students are my life," was a favorite quote of Dr. Germano.

In 1937 he was promoted to assistant professor and became an associate professor in 1943. He attained the rank of professor of engineering mechanics in 1948 and the following year was selected to head of the Department of Engineering Mechanics and remained in that position until 1953. He became only the third person in the history of the Civil Engineering Department since 1894 when he assumed the position of head in 1953.

He remained in this position until his retirement in 1976, at which time he received the title Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering.

During his academic career, Dr. Germano achieved notoriety as author and co-author of several fundamental textbooks in the fields of fluid mechanics and strength of materials. He also served as a consultant to a number of private engineering firms, including the Ford Foundation, and worked in the Caribbean area with the late Dr. Richard Russel of LSU, a world renowned geographer and authority on beach morphology.