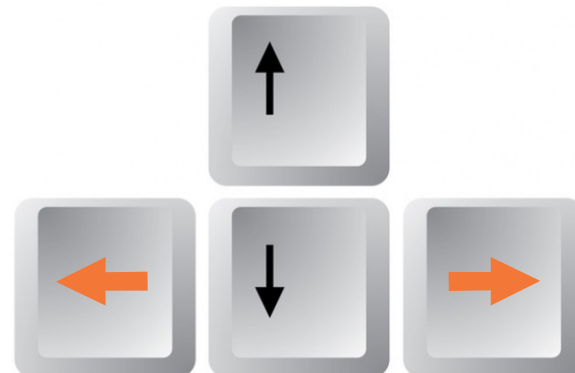


THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO CIVIL ENGINEERING

NEWSLETTER | **FALL 2011**

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Letter from the Chair

I am delighted to be releasing our new Civil Engineering newsletter with the purpose of communicating the great many things that are occurring in our department.

As many of you know, I was appointed chair of the Department of Civil Engineering at UTEP in the fall of 2009 and together with the faculty we continue to work hard to make significant improvements to our academic and research programs.

At the undergraduate level, a new degree plan was put in place in 2009 that addresses some of the issues that have surfaced as part of our continuous quality improvement process.

The new degree plan improves our basic engineering curriculum, includes a course in construction management at the senior level and has now two elective courses that give students the ability to focus on a particular discipline of their interest. Our enrollment at the undergraduate level continues to increase and this fall 2011 semester has reached 357 students, which is almost double the enrollment we had in the fall of 2005. At the

graduate level we are very excited to now offer a Master of Science in Construction Management degree that officially started this summer of 2011 under the direction of Dr. Austin Marshall.

Although this is a new program, based on the interest the local community has shown and our current enrollment, we can already say that it has become a big success. We also have made significant improvements to our graduate catalog by creating new courses that cover such topics as “Sustainable Engineering Design” and by consolidating other courses. These changes to our graduate catalog were made with the intention of making better use of our resources and to provide a better educational experience to our students.

Our department continues to be a leader in research activities and once again we have been recognized by the university with the “2010 Outstanding Performance Award”. Our success comes from the commitment of the faculty to procure external funding and the leadership of our Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems, the Center for Inland Desalination Systems and

the Future Aerospace Science and Technology Center.

I hope that you find very exciting all the departmental activities highlighted in this volume. The faculty and staff of the department are certainly very proud of our achievements and promise to have new and exciting announcements in our next Newsletter.

Sincerely,



Cesar Carrasco
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Civil Engineering

STUDENTS AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UTEP Civil Engineers Win Steel Bridge Competition – BEST IN TEXAS!

UTEP Civil Engineering students won first place in the annual AISC-ASCE Steel Bridge Competition on Saturday, January 15 in Lubbock, Texas at Citibank Coliseum.

The annual competition, sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Institute of Steel Construction, invites ASCE student chapters to design and construct a steel bridge approximately 21 feet long, three feet tall, and three feet wide.

Competing against eleven other universities from Texas and Mexico, the UTEP team won First Place in the "Construction Speed", "Lightness" and "Economy" categories on their way to winning the First Place Overall award.

The top three teams in the Texas-Mexico region advance to the 2011 National Student Steel Bridge Competition scheduled for May 20-21 at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX.

Competition Overall Results:

1. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO (UTEP)	7. Texas Tech University
2. The University of Texas at Austin	8. Texas A&M University - Kingsville
3. La Salle - Cuernavaca, Mexico	9. Texas A&M University - College Station
4. Autonomous Universidad de Mexico	10. Southern Methodist University
5. The University of Houston	11. La Salle - Mexico City, Mexico
6. The University of Texas at San Antonio	12. The University of Texas at Arlington

David Ledesma, co-captain, attributes the team's success to "great team work and confidence in each other's abilities." Sergio Mendez added "Everyone was working toward the same goal, competing at the highest level against other top civil engineering programs."

Shane Walker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor – Civil Engineering and ASCE Advisor, commended the team for working together since August to design, test and fabricate the winning entry. Professor Walker noted, "We know we have great Civil Engineering students, now the rest of Texas does too." The UTEP Team lead by co-captains David Ledesma and Sergio Mendez, graduate students in Civil Engineering, is now preparing for the National Competition in May. The winning steel bridge is on display in the foyer of the College of Engineering Annex through February.



Students Help Build Homes for Wounded Military Veterans



"A group of civil engineering students participated in a local volunteer project called Homes For Our Troops. The project consisted in the construction of two homes adapted for disabled military veterans after they returned from their service. The volunteers participated in what is called the "building brigade" where dozens of volunteers assemble the structural elements of the house along with the roofing in a weekend long activity. During the weekend the students learned hands-on techniques applied in construction projects and were able to have a real experience to add to their resumes. Many of the students commented during the weekend construction that events like this, can and will make them a better rounded candidate once they graduate and look for opportunities in the outside world."



DEPARTMENT AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UTEP to Oversee Push for 'Green' Engineers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a four-year, \$3.2 million grant to The University of Texas at El Paso to oversee a multi-university effort to produce more scientists and engineers who can develop new alternative energy sources and ways to increase energy efficiency.

Heidi A. Taboada, Ph.D., assistant professor of industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering, is the principal investigator of the Building a Regional Energy and Educational Network (BGREEN) project. The USDA announced the award Tuesday, Sept. 27.

Interdisciplinary teams from UTEP, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas State University-San Marcos and New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M., will work with the USDA and agricultural agencies to prepare students and graduates who can develop efficient renewable energy sources, incorporate biomass conversion, improve feedstock logistics, optimize supply chains and processes, and develop green infrastructure, as they enhance the competitiveness of our nation in the global economy.

"Demand for professionals with sustainable energy knowledge is increasing as employers need graduates who can better respond to energy challenges in all professional and business contexts," Taboada said. "This demand also will create green-collar jobs in the industrial sector and in new technology fields and will put

our country on track to a sustainable, low-carbon energy future." The program will help place student interns and train graduate students at sites in Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma, as well as Panama City, Panama.

Taboada will work alongside her UTEP colleagues: co-principal investigator Jose Espiritu, Ph.D., assistant professor of industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering; William Hargrove, Ph.D., director of the Center for Environmental Resource Management; Salvador Hernandez, Ph.D., and Shane Walker, Ph.D., assistant professors of civil engineering; and Juan Noveron, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry.

She said the grant will bring UTEP national visibility among others in the sustainable energy field.

Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Engineering, said this was an example of the kind of research programs the University has undertaken on the road to becoming a Tier One institution.

Sustainability, with a particular focus on renewable energy and the energy-water link, is among the areas of study that bring national prominence, he said.

"With support by the USDA, Dr. Taboada and her faculty colleagues will be establishing the infrastructure, training, and university partnerships necessary for us to make that national impact," Schoephoerster said.



Potable Treatment in El Recreo, Ecuador

During the weeks of November 8-12, 2010 and June 5-12, 2011, Dr. Walker traveled with a team of residents of El Paso, TX to El Recreo, Ecuador, (near Guayaquil). During each trip, fist-size hollow-fiber microfiltration (MF) water treatment units were distributed to approximately 100 low-income households. These filters have sufficient internal surface area that several liters of water can be filtered within 10-15 minutes simply by a gravity head of approximately 0.5 meters, and the filters are expected to last 10-20 years with regular backflushing. Filter recipients noticed diminished illness and improved health within weeks, and this water treatment can save families approximately 10-20% of their monthly income.



DEPARTMENT AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The University of Texas at El Paso is one of only six recipients of the NCEES Award.



The UTEP College of engineering was awarded a grant from the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) to develop sustainable infrastructure management systems for cities.

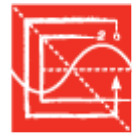
Joe Cardenas, P.E., President - Moreno-Cardenas, Inc., presented the award on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 11:00 am at the College of Engineering Annex Foyer.

Mr. Cardenas is a former member of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

A jury of licensing board members, engineering deans and representatives of professional engineering organizations met to judge the entries to the 2011 NCEES Engineering Award for Connecting Professional Practice and Education.

The NCEES jury considered criteria such as the collaboration of faculty, students and licensed professional engineers, along with the benefit to public health, safety, welfare and multidiscipline participation.

The College of Engineering Civil Department was praised for the strong collaboration of students, professionals and city personnel in the practice of engineering. The project focuses on critical infrastructure components for the City of El Paso and includes: drainage, communications and transportation.



NCEES
advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors

Carlos Chang Albitres, Ph.D., P.E. Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering and Principal Investigator for this project, said, "Preserving our infrastructure assets is essential for a sustainable healthy living community. The development of a sustainable Infrastructure Management System for the City of El Paso has benefited the community by providing a safer and healthier infrastructure system while minimizing the impact of undesired events such as flood and communication disruptions."

This project was also made possible with the participation of Raed Al Douri, Ph.D., Director - Regional Geospatial Service Center and Co-Principal Investigator and Johanes S. Makahaube, P.E., City of El Paso Program Coordinator.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EL PASO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AWARDS \$404,000 TO UTEP CIVIL ENGINEERING

Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D., C.E. Professor



New Mexico. The agency is responsible for developing the area's regional transportation plan.

Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D., Civil Engineering Professor and Principal Investigator for the award says: "This project will identify the conditions for high ozone episodes and provide effective measures for air pollution reduction in the region. We look forward to working with TCEQ, the El Paso MPO and local stake holders to jointly improve El Paso's air quality."

A team of six undergraduate students and two graduate students from various disciplines will participate in the research project for fifteen months. Other UTEP researchers include Drs. Rosa Fitzgerald and Huiyan Yang of the Physics Department, Dr. Kelvin Cheu of the Civil Engineering Department and Dr. Hongling Yang of the Mathematics Department. For more information contact Ingrid Wright, at 915.747.5971 or iaguire@utep.edu

Grant to Create Air Quality Curriculum

The El Paso-Ciudad Juárez area is labeled at-risk for dangerous air quality by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and The University of Texas at El Paso is working to create a long-term solution to fix this problem.

Three professors are spearheading the Buen Ambiente-Buena Salud: Educational Strategies for Addressing Air Quality on the Border program. As part of this five-year effort, an air quality curriculum will be distributed to area school districts, and more undergraduate and graduate students will be trained in environmental health fields.

The EPA in July awarded a \$1.24 million grant to the University's Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM). UTEP also will provide a \$920,000 in-kind contribution for the program.

"These are very important issues here in the El Paso and Juárez

area," said William L. Hargrove, Ph.D., director of CERM and primary investigator for the grant. "We have a lot of problems."

Pollution can cause health problems such as chest pain, coughing, congestion, inflammation, throat irritation and breathing difficulties. It also can worsen conditions like bronchitis, emphysema and asthma, according to the EPA.

Among the contributing factors to air pollution are traffic, the arid climate and industrial companies, Hargrove said. With this program, more than 50,000 students in El Paso will learn about the basics of air quality and its impact on public health, he said.

The air quality curriculum will give students a different approach to science, offer content for English-learning classes and closely examine social justice concerns relevant to environmental issues, said Elaine Hampton, Ph.D., a retired UTEP pro-

The Civil Engineering Department at The University of Texas at El Paso has received a \$404,000 grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) thru the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization for the El Paso MPO Rider 8 Ozone Reduction Program at El Paso, Texas.

UTEP will work in collaboration with TCEQ and El Paso MPO to identify, inventory and monitor ozone pollution levels in the Paso del Norte region. Data will be used to model and quantify ozone pollution levels. An objective of the project is implementation of appropriate pollution reduction controls.

The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization/Transportation Policy Board is the regional planning and programming agency responsible for working with residents, neighborhood groups, local, state and federal agencies along with other transportation providers in El Paso County, Texas, southern Doña Ana and Otero Counties in

professor of teacher education who is developing the K-12 curriculum.

About 40 El Paso Independent School District teachers and curriculum leaders will help write the modules. They are working in teams to develop and field test a two-week unit about air quality issues with content specific to their grades, Hampton said. The curriculum should be finished in three years and it will take two years to distribute the materials and train teachers, she said.

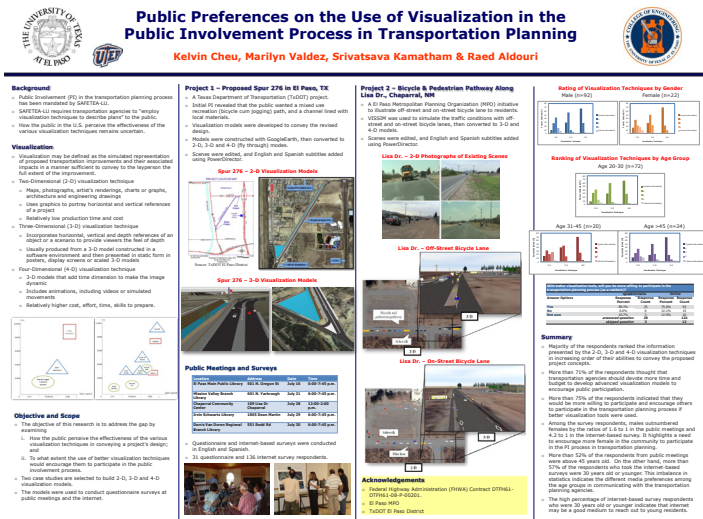
In the second part of the plan, Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D., professor of civil engineering, will oversee a multidisciplinary internship program that will give 50 UTEP students opportunities to gain experience in air quality-related fields.

"One unique feature of this project is that the (UTEP) students must carry out some environmental citizenship project to take action to improve air quality in the region," Hampton said.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DEPARTMENT AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Transportation Research Board Conferred Best Paper Award to UTEP Faculty and Students



technologies in public meetings, and potentially paves the way for widespread use of such tools to improve public participation in transportation projects.” said Dr. Cheu.

Dr. Soheil Nazarian, Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems commented “We are very thrilled by this accomplishment. This is the first time UTEP researchers have won a TRB (a national level) award.” TRB is a division of the National Research Council, which is part of the National Academies. Every year, TRB organizes its Annual Meeting which is attended by more than 11,000 transportation researchers and practitioners. The latest meeting received more than 3,800 full paper submissions. After a rigorous peer-review process, approximately half of the papers were selected for presentation at the meeting and the top 25% will be published in the

A research article titled “Public Preferences on the Use of Visualizations in the Public Involvement Process in Transportation Planning” co-authored by Dr. Kelvin Cheu (Associate Professor of Civil Engineering), Marilyn Valdez (M.S.C.E.), Srivatsava Kamatham (M.S.I.T.) and Dr. Raed Aldouri (Director of Geospatial Information Service Center) has been awarded the 2011 Greg Herrington Award for Excellence in Visualization Research by the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the National Academies.

(the predecessor to the current Visualization in Transportation Committee). This award honors his memory by recognizing outstanding research in the field of visualization as applied to challenges and opportunities for improving transportation. The winning paper was the result of a recently completed research project funded by the Federal Highway Administration. The multidisciplinary UTEP research team, with the help of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization and Texas Department of Transportation, selected two local transportation projects which were in the planning phase, developed 3D and 4D visualization models to exhibit the highway facility and application of 3D visualization technologies to transportation planning and design while at Utah Department of Transportation. He was very active in TRB, having helped to found the TRB Visualization Task Force



Jan. 2011: Dr. Kelvin Cheu, Marilyn Valdez, Sree Kamatham and Dr. Raed Aldouri received 2011 Greg Harrington Award from TRB. BIG Lab made a total of 8 presentations at TRB 2011.

New Master’s Program in Construction Management



Construction of the new Chemistry and Computer Science Building

With cities expanding across the globe, both vertically and horizontally, the engineers of tomorrow are clamoring for their chance to fill the positions that will oversee the next big construction project. The University of Texas at El Paso is doing its part to train the future leaders in engineering through a new master’s degree in construction management (MSCM).

The State of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the program in UTEP’s Department of Civil Engineering. It was designed to provide the specialized training and skills required to manage complex construction projects.

“The M.S. in construction management is the college’s next

step in our plan to offer a full range of professional master’s programs linked to local and national need,” said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering. “Graduates of this program will fill a great need for construction managers coinciding with the growth of Fort Bliss and El Paso, and will also significantly contribute to the great national need for bilingual construction managers across the U.S.”

The program builds upon an existing certificate program in construction management that has been growing rapidly in its first three years, said Austin Marshall, J.D., director of the new degree program and clinical professor of civil engineering.

The degree will require participants to take 10 classes – 30 academic credit hours – with courses including project management, estimating, scheduling safety, construction methods, and an internship with a construction company. Three additional electives are chosen from College of Business Administration and College of Engineering courses. An estimated 30 students will be

enrolled in the program’s inaugural semester, fall 2011. It is expected to grow to as many as 80 students in the next three years, Marshall said.

“Construction projects today are very complex and require very sophisticated management skills that are not part of most bachelor’s degree programs,” he said. “Managing the risk of money, time, safety and quality in construction requires very detailed documentation, using highly technical scheduling software systems, and safety and quality audits. Students in the MSCM program will ... be trained to integrate quickly and effectively into beginning level jobs in construction management.”

According to Marshall, the Construction Management Association of America reports that placement of construction management graduates has been at 100 percent and will stay high because the demand has built up over a number of years. The program will be open to students with bachelor’s degrees in civil engineering, architecture, business and other engineering disciplines.

For more information, contact Marshall at 915.747.5765 or asmarshall@utep.edu.

Professor Nazarian Named Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers



Soheil Nazarian, Ph.D., C.E. Professor

Soheil Nazarian, Ph.D., Professor of Civil Engineering at The University of Texas, was named a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

Fellow status is attained through an exemplary record of professional accomplishments. The prestigious honor is held by fewer than five percent of ASCE members. Recipients of Fellow status demonstrate a distinguished career with significant contributions to the Civil Engineering profession.

Dr. Nazarian, who joined the University in 1988, has more than 25 years of experience in the areas of materials and non-destructive testing related to geotechnical and transportation infrastructure. He has been Principal Investigator or Co-PI of more than 90 funded research projects. Dr. Nazarian has also co-authored more than 90 technical reports in the area of pavement materials and Geotechnical engineering. He is the founding Director of the Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems.

Upon receiving the honor Dr. Nazarian commented, “I am very appreciative of this award; only a small number of ASCE members are honored with this status and I’m pleased to join them”.

ASCE Fellows are models of the highest level of the Civil Engineering profession. Their career contributions make a discernable impact on the community, society at-large, and future engineering professionals.

Richard Schoephoerster, Dean – College of Engineering, adds “Fellow status in your field is a goal we all aspire to, but few achieve. Dr. Nazarian’s accomplishments are reflective of the quality of his research, and as importantly, in the success of his students”.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

UTEP Announces Bid for 2013 Solar Decathlon with Gift from El Paso Electric Company

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) announced its intent to bid for entry in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2013 Solar Decathlon on April 20, 2011. A lead gift of \$200,000 from the El Paso Electric Company will be used to plan and develop the University's bid and entry for the national competition. The announcement, fittingly outdoor under bright sunshine, was made as part of UTEP's Earth Week activities.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon is an award-winning program that has occurred biennially since 2005. Only twenty collegiate teams are selected to design, build and operate solar-powered houses that are cost effective, energy efficient and attractive. Selection of entrants is highly competitive. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal and design/construction excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency.

"This generous investment by

El Paso Electric brings together UTEP's commitment to both access and excellence as we continue our progress toward becoming the first national research university with a 21st-century student demographic," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

The high visibility competition takes place on the National Mall in Washington D.C. The competition has established a worldwide reputation as a successful educational program and workforce development opportunity for thousands of students. The competition is called a decathlon because houses are judged in 10 categories – architecture, market appeal, engineering, communications, affordability, comfort zone, hot water generation, appliances, home entertainment and energy balance.

The complexity of the competition requires participation from across each university for two years. Team UTEP, lead by the College of Engineering, is no different with participation expected from the Colleges of Business Administration, Education and Liberal Arts. In addition to

UTEP students, the El Paso Community College (EPCC) is playing a key role through its Architecture program.

"UTEP's participation in the 2013 Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon will demonstrate to the nation, state, and region, El Paso's place in the development of energy solutions for the 21st century," said Richard Schoepherster, Dean of the College of Engineering. "We're very excited to be partnering with El Paso Electric and the El Paso Community College to present an opportunity for our students in a variety of majors to develop interdisciplinary and sustainable solutions to the nation's energy needs."

Students from UTEP and EPCC have already begun preliminary planning with the guidance of Austin Marshall, Director – Construction Management and Clinical Professor of Civil Engineering, Charles Turner, Professor of Civil Engineering, and Ken Gorski, Director – Architecture Program of the El Paso Community College.

El Paso Electric recognizes the positive visibility of the competition for the El Paso region as well as UTEP. Its leadership gift is intended to encourage other progressive companies and individuals to support a successful bid and entry for 2013. Richard Fleager, Senior Vice President for External Affairs and Customer Care at El Paso Electric, said the company looks forward to the UTEP entry as a model for solar home construction in the El Paso area.

In addition to the \$200,000 contribution, El Paso Electric is committing technical and professional advice for the student team.

UTEP is actively seeking other sponsors. Interested companies and individuals may contact Manny Pacillas, Assistant Dean – College of Engineering, at 915.747.7628 or manny@utep.edu.



Richard Fleager, Senior Vice President for External Relations and Customer Care - El Paso Electric Company; Diana Natalicio, President - UTEP; Henry Quintana, Manager Public Relations - El Paso Electric Company; Richard Schoepherster, Dean of the College of Engineering - UTEP

FACULTY NEWS

New Civil Engineering Faculty Members



W. Shane Walker, Ph.D., has been named assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering. Dr. Walker received a B.S. degree in civil engineering from Texas Tech University.

He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees through the Environmental and Water Resources Engineering program at the University of Texas at Austin. He also has experience with several civil and environmental consulting firms.

Dr. Walker is joining the Center for Inland Desalination Systems research group. His research interests include treatment of inland desalination concentrates, as well as the development of improved drinking water and sanitation systems for impoverished and developing countries.



Dr. Hernández is an assistant professor with the Department of Civil Engineering at UTEP. He teaches transportation and logistics related undergraduate and graduate courses and conducts transportation and logistics systems research at UTEP. He is also a faculty member of the BIG Transportation Laboratory.

Dr. Hernández earned his Ph.D. degree in Transportation Infrastructure Systems Engineering at Purdue University, Indiana in 2010. Prior to joining UTEP in 2010, Dr. Hernández was a research assistant at Purdue University's NEXTRAN center a USDOT Region V Regional University Transportation Center, where he conducted research on the viability of freight carrier collaboration through the use of demand modeling instruments (survey and econometric techniques) and network analysis and optimization tools.

Dr. Hernández research interest and expertise include application of econometric and statistical methods to a variety of engineering problems, supply chain and logistics modeling, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), public, intermodal transportation and transportation safety. In addition, Dr. Hernández has significant expertise in data multivariate techniques which were applied to an exploratory analysis for a freight carrier collaboration project at NEXTRANS.

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For support for the Students, Faculty and equipment needs of The Department of Civil Engineering at UTEP, contributions are accepted electronically.

*Thank You
For Your Loyalty & Financial
Support!*

Alumna Named TSPE "Engineer of the Year" and UTEP's "Gold Nugget"

Isabel Vasquez, P.E. "Engineer of the Year" 2011.



The El Paso Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) awarded Isabel Vasquez, P.E. (CE '82) "Engineer of the Year" for 2011. Ms. Vasquez, Vice President - Huitt Zollars, joins twenty-six UTEP Engineering graduates who have been selected Engineer of the Year by TSPE. The annual award distinguishes an individual engineer "for demonstrating a high level of professional skill, knowledge and conduct, for dedication to his profession and for his/her unselfish contributions to the El Paso community."

To round up the year of recognitions for all her achievements, this October 2011 Ms. Vasquez was also recognized with the "Gold Nugget" award by UTEP and the College of Engineering. This is an award that recognizes exceptional graduates from our university who have distinguished themselves in their profes-

sions and lives, given back to their communities and alma mater, and serve as an inspiration for future generations of Miners. This is the first time since its inception in 1984 that an alumna of the College of Engineering is recognized with this award. This is of great significance and is recognition of her commitment to inspire women to pursue a career in engineering.

A native El Pasoan, Ms. Vasquez graduated in 1977 from Thomas Jefferson High School and The University of Texas at El Paso in 1982 with a degree in Civil Engineering.

A pioneering female engineer in the El Paso region, she was the first woman Project Engineer for the El Paso Water Utilities. Since 1995, Isabel has engineered with Huitt-Zollars, a Top 200 Engineering and Architectural firm headquartered in Dallas. She was quickly promoted to Associate in her first year, became Vice President in her fourth year and is now a shareholder in the firm. Her current work includes oversight and lead for water and wastewater projects for the \$4.6 billion Phase I Fort Bliss Land Development Project, the largest and most extensive development of Fort Bliss in modern times.

"I am very glad that Isabel professional achievements have been

recognized by her peers. Isabel is another example of the quality of education that the College of Engineering at UTEP offers," says Carlos Ferregut, Ph.D., and Associate Dean - Research & Graduate Studies. He continues, "The College of Engineering and the Department of

"Isabel is another example of the quality of education that the College of Engineering at UTEP offers"

Civil Engineering are very proud to see one of their alumna be named Engineer of the Year. The College and the Department have benefited from Isabel's and Huitt-Zollars continue support of our activities. Several years ago Isabel and her daughters were the models of a poster we produced to promote Civil Engineering among young high school female students."

In addition to practicing engineering, Ms. Vasquez is active in recruiting young women into engineering and has assisted with Senior Project for her home department of Civil Engineering. As a respected engineer and leader Isabel has served as president for the El Paso Chapters of the American Water Works Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Council of Engineering Companies.

"What a Small World"

Story by Dr. Hong-Sioe Oey



Dr. Hong-Sioe Oey, Guillermo Provencio, and Michael Oey at Okinawa military base department store.

Oey (Project Management & Engineering Branch Director, Naval Facilities Engineering Command), Guillermo Provencio (Project Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers), and Eric Fino (Project Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers).

This summer on 1 July 2011, I traveled to Okinawa to see my son. While shopping at the military base department store (the Base Exchange), I heard a voice call my name. To my surprise there stood a UTEP CE department alumnus, Guillermo Provencio, with his wife and teen-age daughter. Guillermo had been in Okinawa for only two weeks. He and another UTEP CE alumnus, Eric Fino (who had been on the island for about 3 years), are working together for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Okinawa Area Office. We officially have three CE alumni working in Okinawa, Japan: Michael

"I have been working in Okinawa for 3 years (Aug 2008) for the US Army Corps of Engineers as a project engineer supporting all branches of Defense about 13 bases (Navy-Marines, Army, and Air force). Our Projects vary in complexity from environmental fuel tank removal/replacements, Airforce runway repair, Department of Defense School renovations, Medical/Dental Facilities, Dormitories, Family Housing, Restaurants and Clubs, and Administration Buildings. I do management contract administration to include contract compliance, quality assurance, safety, budget and schedule. I am a registered professional engineer from New Mexico. I attended UTEP from 1984 to 1989 and spent my summers interning with the Texas Department of Transportation in El Paso and San Angelo.

Overall, I have worked for the Corps for 22 years in various locations to include El Paso, Sacramento, Albuquerque, Pisa Italy, and Okinawa Japan. I have worked continuously overseas for over 9 years with my wife Angie (Defense Elementary School Math Teacher) and 2 children, daughter Miranda 13 and son Gabriel 2 years.

It was nice meeting your son Michael and we plan on sharing experiences over lunch every so often. Go Miners..."

Eric Fino, P.E., Project Engineer, Japan District-Okinawa US Army Corps of Engineers

"I have the same job title as Eric, Project Engineer, and also have the same type or projects and responsibilities but as you know, I have only been here for just over 3 months.

My current projects include Airfield Runway Repairs for the Kadena Air Force Base, 3 school renovation projects for the Department of Defense Schools, and 3 projects dealing with building renovations and drainage improvement for the Marine Bases".

Guillermo Provencio, P.E., Project Engineer, Zukeran Resident Office, Okinawa Area, Japan Engineer District



Michael Oey, Eric Fino, and Guillermo Provencio at Okinawa Area Office, US Army Corps of Engineers.

CIVIL ENGINEERING HOMECOMING LUNCHEON 2011



CIVIL ENGINEERING ALUMNI 40 - 60's



CIVIL ENGINEERING ALUMNI 40 - 60's & 70's



CIVIL ENGINEERING ALUMNI 80's



CIVIL ENGINEERING ALUMNI 90 - 95's



CIVIL ENGINEERING ALUMNI 96 - 00's



CIVIL ENGINEERING ALUMNI 01 - 05's



CIVIL ENGINEERING ALUMNI 06 - 10's



CIVIL ENGINEERING ALUMNI 2011

Dear Alumni:

OUR TRADITION CONTINUES

Thank you for your support during the Civil Engineering Homecoming Luncheon, enjoy the pictures and hope to see you again next year.

Civil Engineering Department



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CIVIL ENGINEERING

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