Dr. Kumar is an outstanding university educator and teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in air pollution control. He directs research on both theoretical and applied topics in the fields of air quality modeling, risk assessment and application of computers. Before coming to Toledo he worked for Syncrude Canada Ltd. as an atmospheric physicist where he developed, planned and conducted studies related to the dispersion of emissions of a tar sands plant.

Dr. Kumar received his Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Honors) from Aligarh University in India (1970), his Masters of Applied Science from University of Ottawa, Canada (1972) and his Ph.D. from the University of Waterloo, Canada (1978). He is registered as a Professional Engineer in the Province of Alberta, Canada and a Diplomat of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He is a fellow member of Air and Waste Management Association (A&WMA).

Throughout his distinguished career Dr. Kumar has received grants/contracts worth more than $2 million from industry and regulatory agencies, authored or co-authored more than 250 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, conference papers and reports, edited two conference proceedings, and co-authored a book with his graduate student in 1999. He is also software review editor for Environmental Progress (AIChE) and a member of editorial board of Journal of Hazardous Material. He has guided and mentored 75 graduate students in their pursuits of advanced engineering knowledge. He was recognized in 2002 with an Outstanding Researcher Award by the College of Engineering, University of Toledo. Air and Waste Management Association presented him with L. A. Ripperton Award for distinguished achievement as an educator in the field of air pollution control in June 2003.

Dr. Kumar’s open access Web site [http://homepages.utoledo.edu/aprg/](http://homepages.utoledo.edu/aprg/) is used by the students throughout the world. He uses this Web site to offer four online courses to students from industry and remote areas in Ohio.

Dr. Kumar has served as a reviewer for several journals, A&WMA publications and corporations. He was chair of the A&WMA’s Education Council from 1998 to 2001 and chaired two Task Forces on “Online Library” and “Retention and Growth of Membership” for AWMA Board in 2002 and 2003. He was a member of the Committee on FE examination (EE) for NCEES in 2002 and 2003. He has given continuing education courses on air quality modeling at workshops and conferences arranged by A&WMA, OSHM, HMCRI, Toledo Department of Health, The University of Toledo, IIT (New Delhi), and Finnish Meteorological Institute. He has appeared on TV and radio stations and in public forums and newspapers to discuss air quality problems.

Dr. Kumar has been on the faculty at the University of Toledo for more than 20 years. A seasoned veteran and no stranger to leadership Dr. Kumar quickly appointed several faculty members to inner-departmental task forces and committees. Dr. Kumar is excited about this opportunity to lead and has high expectation for the Civil Engineering Department.

Dr. Ashok Kumar is a professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio and an adjunct professor of Public Health at Medical College of Ohio, Toledo.
Look up *success* in the dictionary and the adjacent picture is what you might find. Birdel Jackson a graduate of the College of Engineering Department of Civil Engineering has “made it.” More important than that however, is his determination to ensure that others make it also.

During a recent visit to the College of Engineering, Mr. Jackson spoke to a group of freshmen and sophomores about what it takes to make it in the world of engineering. He cautioned them “engineering is hard work; I had many nights that I studied in my dorm in Carter Hall while many of my friends went to the game or a party.” Birdel is a testament to sacrifice and hard work. After intense study at the University of Toledo Birdel went on to Georgia Tech for his masters degree. Today he is President and CEO of a 54 person civil engineering and architectural firm, which in 2002 was ranked the number one firm in terms of business in the state of Tennessee.

Birdel is proud of his Alma Mater and rarely misses a UT Homecoming or the opportunity to inspire up and coming UT civil engineers. In that spirit, Birdel has endowed several scholarship for Civil Engineers.
She’s Definitely a Keeper!

If you have ever ran out of business cards, needed a lap top and room to present within 15 minutes notice, lost your book bag, or didn’t get your pay check, you immediately realize how important Diane Brown is to the Department of Civil Engineering. She truly is a keeper! If its lost typically she finds it, if its broke she knows how to fix it, and if its crunch time, well move out of the way because she is on it!

We salute and thank Diane Brown, Secretary of the Department of Civil Engineering who recently received recognition as she celebrated 5 years as an employee of the University of Toledo.

Congratulations to Samuel Moyer, 2004 winner of the Gretchen Koo Memorial Scholarship! Presented annually to a senior of high academic standing and character.

Pictured Here: Samuel Moyer and Dr. Benjamin Koo, Professor Emeritus
Dr. Douglas Nims’ Freshmen Civil Engineering Experience Class (CIVE1000) visited the Maumee River Crossing Bridge construction site on October 21st and 22nd. The class of future civil engineers got a birds eye view of their futures. The group lead by Bob Lindsey and Joe Rutherford of the Ohio Department of Transportation, toured several stations along the bridge which at completion will total 8,800 feet, including the cable stayed bridge at center and approaches. The bridge will provide a new access route across the highly traveled Interstate I-280. The Central focus of the bridge will be a lighted pylon (or tower) which will extend above the center of the river span, 280 feet above the roadway surface and nearly 400 feet above the river and feature 185 feet of inlaid glass on all four sides, a tribute to Toledo’s heritage as “the Glass City.”

The $120 million dollar project has energized the Toledo economy and local downtown businesses. This project, the largest single project ever undertaken by the Ohio Department of Transportation, illustrates the limitless possibilities and rewards of a career in civil engineering. Dr. Nims enjoys taking students to the bridge so that they can come up close and personal with a real life example of the challenges and rewards of civil engineering. Dr. Douglas Nims leads a team of graduate students who instrumented the bridge and will collect data over the next few years to look at the long term behavior of the bridge.

Several undergraduate student have interned on the bridge, Sara Dasher a 2003 graduate of our program is currently working on the project. There are over 20 UT Alumni working with the Bridge Project.
Research in Our Global World: Dr. Chou Hosts Visiting Student

Dr. Chou has been very busy in his research efforts. He hosted a visiting doctoral student, Mr. Jyh-Tyng Yau, from National Central University, Taiwan, Republic of China from February to September 2004. His visit here was supported by a prestigious fellowship awarded by the National Research Council of Taiwan, ROC. He chose to come to the University of Toledo to do research in the area of pavement management systems, which is the area of his Ph.D. dissertation and expertise of Dr. Chou. Mr. Jyh-Tyng has returned to Taiwan and is planning to defend his dissertation early next year.

GEO Challenge 2005; UT Team Takes 3rd Place

UT civil engineering students Chett Siefring, Mary Robbins, Clint Messner and Carlyn Whitmore took third place in the inaugural Geo-Challenge competition that was held at the ASCE Geo-Frontiers Congress 2005 in Austin, TX on January 24, 2005. For the competition, the students constructed a miniature reinforced-soil retaining wall system using dry sand, poster board and Kraft paper. The judging was based on their design, construction time and performance of their wall. The student team was one of five teams selected for the competition based on a national solicitation. Support for travel was provided by the conference sponsors, the UT Department of Civil Engineering and the UT College of Engineering. Faculty advisors for the group were Dr. Andrew Heydinger and Associate Dean Brian Randolph of the Department of Civil Engineering. It is hoped that this competition will develop into a national event like the concrete canoe contest.

Other Civil Engineering News Available on the Web:

http://www.eng.utoledo.edu/civil/
You may have thought the dynamic duo was Batman and Robin, but we have our own dynamic duo PhD candidate Chen Chen Wang and senior Jason Wielinski are soaring to heights Batman and Robin could only dream about. Under the guidance of Professor Eddie Chou these two have been researching pavement management systems. Assisting local municipalities, the two have been cruising the streets in a computerized pavement management van, not to find villains, but potholes and pavement problems that cost cities’ thousands of dollars annually in civil disputes. Having managed a major portion of the research over the last two years the dynamic duo will present their research at the Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference at the Columbus Convention Center.

Environmental Engineering Peer Lecture Series Begins

We all know what acetoclore is right? Maybe not, but first year graduate student, Meghan Foley sure does. Under the direction of her advisor, Dr. Cyndee Gruden, Meghan has been examining acetoclore (a pesticide commonly used in Ohio) in surface waters. Meghan presented a portion of her research findings as part of a new series of Peer Lectures for students in Environmental Engineering. Dr. Defne Apul, a new Environmental faculty in the Department of Civil Engineering, thought that developing a peer lecture series would not only be educational but assist graduate students with presentation skills, public speaking, and relating to their peers. The series will continue throughout the year and feature other graduate student in the area of Environmental Engineering.
Senior Spotlight

Stellar is not just a word used to describe constellations! Senior Nichole Johnson, pictured here assisting freshmen with the shake table, is a stellar senior. Nicole’s undergraduate research in earthquake engineering will surely launch her into success during her graduate studies in coastal engineering, which she plans to pursue next fall. The Department of Civil Engineering is encouraging more undergraduates to participate in undergraduate research projects. New incentives for undergraduate research are being developed and an official plan should be adopted for the Fall 2005 class.

Hats Off to the Fall 2004 Class!!!
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING - COLLEGE NOTABLES

Congratulations to Chett Siefring, Mary Robbins, Clint Messner and Carlyn Whimore for winning the Geo-Challenge competition. The competition will be held at the ASCE Geo-Frontiers Congress 2005 in Austin, TX on January 24, 2004. This is the first time that this competition has been held. At the competition, the students will have to construct a miniature reinforced-soil retaining wall system. They will be judged on many things including the design, construction and performance of their wall.

ASCE will provide up to $2000 travel expenses for the student and registration fees for the four team members and one faculty advisor. Faculty advisors for the group are Dr. Andrew Heydinger and Associate Dean Brian Randolph of the Department of Civil Engineering.

Dr. Brian Randolph, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Professor was named ASCE Engineer of the Year for the City of Toledo in May 2004.

Mr. Matt Choma, alumni (BSCE & MSCE) from the UT College of Engineering was named ASCE young engineer of the year for the City of Toledo in May 2004. His advisor was Dr. Brian Randolph.

Dr. Ashok Kumar, Professor took 5 graduate students to the AWMA-NOC (Air and Waste Management Association) conference in Cleveland and they made three poster presentations. He will also be taking took 6 students to Indianapolis to attend AWMA’S 97th Annual Conference and Exhibition to present papers and posters. The conference was held June 22 - 25, 2004. Attendees were: Smitha Kalapati, Rahul Pendse, Rajni Oshan, Anne, Abhilash Vijayan, Charanya Vardrajan and Kanwar Siddharth Bharwaj are going

James Hoben, Construction Engineering Technology & Civil Engineering graduate, was one of two Senior Scholars named at the Spring Engineering graduation on May 8, 2004. James received dual degrees and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 GPA.

Dr. Eddie Y. Chou, Professor of Civil Engineering, recently was awarded $193,638 and $76,223, respectively, for his studies on pavement forecasting models and on effectiveness of thin hot-mix overlay on pavement ride and condition performance by the Federal Highway Administration and the Ohio Department of Transportation. Dr. Chou also received $138,358 from the City of Toledo for Phase III development of a state-of-the-art pavement management information system. He is also awarded $30,724 by the City of Perrysburg to develop a new roadway management system. Dr. Chou’s research group has developed a comprehensive pavement management information system for the State of Ohio. The system is currently being used by the Ohio Department of Transportation to monitor the performance of more than 20,000 miles of highways in Ohio.

Dr. Brian Randolph, Professor of Civil Engineering was recently awarded the American Society of Civil Engineers Toledo Chapter (ASCE) Engineer of the Year Award. Dr. Randolph will be recognized at the May 27, 2004 chapter meeting at the Ward Pavilion.

Mary Robbins, Civil Engineering Undergraduate Student has been offered Undergraduate Summer Internship at the University of Texas at Austin. Mary will work with faculty researchers and graduate students in the field of transportation. Mary’s internship is sponsored by the Advanced Institute for Transportation Infrastructure Engineering and Management.

Mr. Sai Peyyeti, a graduate student studying under Dr. Mostaghel, has won a national competition for an expenses paid trip to present his research at the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute meeting in Los Angeles in February.

Alumnus Louise Schlatter was recently recognized in a literary piece entitled “Women & Work” in the living section of the Toledo Blade. Louise is currently working at SSOE Incorporated.
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

WE would love to know where life has taken you recently. If you have a story you would like to see included in the Civil Newsletter, please send your information to Jamilah Jones, jjones10@utnet.utoledo.edu.

*The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step!*

Check out the ELIFE Newsletter at
http://www.eng.utoledo.edu/elife/elife.htm