Greetings and salutations alumni, students and friends of the Department of Civil Engineering. It is a very exciting time in our department as it is always growing and changing. Starting with 50+ new undergraduate students and 10+ new graduate students, a new APC and secretary, new instructors and upgrades to our labs, we have been very busy and productive. I welcome you all to Civil Engineering.

Our students are performing very well on the FE examination. They exceeded national average in spring 2005. We are attracting increasing competitive freshman class to the department. The ABET accreditation visit in Sept. 2005 went very well. Thanks to the members of our Industrial Advisory Board for spending their time to improve the quality of program with their thoughtful suggestions.

We have an undergraduate student representing us internationally, students going to conferences and winning awards and scholarships, and professors speaking at & organizing conferences, working with minority youth & publishing papers. We definitely are getting our name out there and showing all the great thing that can be accomplished with a University of Toledo, College of Engineering degree. I look forward working with you in the coming year.

Civil Honors students’ summer travels

Christina Corrigan traveled to Italy and France this summer to study engineering abroad. First she went to Turin, Italy where she took and honors course on Modern Architecture. Then she traveled to Paris in order to attend the International Institute of Women Engineers’ Conference on Sustainability. She plans to incorporate the knowledge gained from this experience into her honors thesis paper that she will be presenting in the spring.
New APC

Let's all welcome Vandra Robinson to the Department of Civil Engineering. Although she is new to the Engineering game, Vandra is no stranger to the University of Toledo as she is a 1998 Alum. Believe it or not, Vandra has been here since October, but some of you may have missed her as she was on leave shortly after obtaining this position to give birth to her son George III.

Vandra is very eager to help and learn all she can so that she can be an asset to the students and the department. If she doesn't know the answer, she is in immediate action to locate someone who does.

Just a phone call or email away Vandra is on the job! Or as the department's incoming freshman heard during Rocket Launch “Vandra is cool”!

New Secretary

Oh happy day! After five, count them five temporary secretaries, Mrs. Catherine Sharper Powell walked into the Department of Civil Engineering’s office and we could all breathe a sigh of relief. Catherine has actually been with the University since 1965 when she was assigned a work study position in the Registrar’s Office. Decades later she was a temporary secretary in Student Services, later to be hired full time in the Office of Multicultural Student Development, then transferred to Student Activities, and the Student Center on Scott Park Campus. Then on July 17, 2006 Catherine became ours!

Welcome to the department and keep up the good work!

Babies, Babies, Babies

Baby boys are everywhere in Department of Civil Engineering! Proud mothers Dr. Defne Apul, Dr. Cyndee Gruden, and Vandra Robinson are aglow whenever you mention Derin, Alexander, or George respectively. Derin Apul was born June 25th, Alexander Gruden was adopted May 16th and George Robinson III was born January 6th.

Congratulations to all the new mothers and....... Keep the pictures coming!
**AWMA conference**

Five students from the Air Pollution Research Group were selected for presenting their research papers at the 99th Air & Waste Management Association's Annual Conference held at New Orleans, LA from June 19th-23rd. The group delivered seven technical posters and one technical paper presentation. This year, two doctoral candidates from the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Toledo were felicitated by the association. Abhilash Vijayan was awarded the Air & Waste Management Association's Student Scholarship for $2000 in Recognition of Excellence in Air Quality Research and Study. Charanya Varadarajan received an honorable mention in the Doctoral category Poster/Paper Presentation Competition and an award of $150.

Dr. Kumar presented the technical paper:


Dr. Kumar also gave a talk on “Analysis of Student Learning during a Distance Learning Course on Air Pollution Engineering “during a panel on” Issues and Challenges Facing Environmental Education and Outreach” at the AWMA Conference, June 2006.

**ASCE Task Force meets**

Dr. Andrew Heydinger is a member of an ASCE Task Force whose charge is to formulate plans for an annual student Geo-Competition. The Task Force met in Atlanta, GA on February 28 and March 1 at the ASCE GeoCongress on Geotechnical Engineering in the Information Technology Age, in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Heydinger presented a paper entitled ‘Analysis of Variations of Pavement Subgrade Soil Water Content’ at the 4th International Conference on Unsaturated Soils in Phoenix, AZ on April 2. Dr. Heydinger helped organize and attended the 14th Annual Great Lakes Geotechnical and Geoenviromental Conference on Geotechnical Aspects of Earth Retention and Shoreline Protection in Chicago, IL on May 12.
**Dr. Pickett’s Minority Outreach Continues**

This summer was full of activities with minority student for Dr. Pickett. He began with a week in June where he instructed 20 EXCEL high school minority students in AUTOCAD, 2-4 hours a day.

Next, the last week in June he and Dr. Escobar, from Chemical Engineering, instructed 21 GEAR-UP junior high school minority students in Soils and Earthquakes, four hours a day.

Then in July Dr. Pickett along with Dr. Escobar from Chemical Engineering, and Dr. Oliver from Mechanical Engineering, helped organize, chaperoned, and conducted a hands-on activity (Soils and Quakes) for the Latino and Migrant Youth Summit. Approximately 54 pre-college students attended.

**Papers published in Environmental Progress**

The department had two papers published in the July issue of Environmental Progress:


**New CADD instructors**

Make sure we all welcome to the Department of Civil Engineering the CADD instructors Bryan Ellis and Beth Wyckoff.
Hats off to the Spring and Summer 2006 Graduates!

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

Back Page Story Headline
This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it’s a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you’ve received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you’ve created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.