

JOHN A. REIF, JR. DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



Summer 2017 eNewsletter

Message from the Chair

Dear friends of CEE,

Our students, faculty and staff continue to make important contributions to the field of civil engineering in academics, research and service. Our face-to-face and distance-learning programs remain on the cutting edge of engineering education; the achievements of our young alumni in diverse sectors reflect their impact. This fall semester, we will launch our Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree program at the Mercer County Community College campus, expanding access for students from the college and the region.

This past May, we proudly congratulated 128 undergraduate and 94 graduate students who received their degrees at Commencement. The latest American Society for Engineering Education figures place CEE 18th in the nation for the number of undergraduate degrees awarded annually. CEE students, faculty and staff continue to advance in the three interdisciplinary research areas of intelligent transportation, environmental and infrastructure systems.

I am pleased to share with you some of the details in this summer 2017 issue of the CEE Newsletter. As always, the CEE Department welcomes your support of its programs and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Taha F. Marhaba, P.E., F.ASCE

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Students

In This Issue

[Students](#)

[Research](#)

[Alumni](#)

[Outreach](#)

[Faculty](#)

[Spotlight](#)

Advisory Board

Representing a diverse cross section of civil and environmental engineering professionals, including design consultants, construction

Commencement May 16, 2017

Congratulations to the **128 undergraduate** and **94 graduate students** who received **CEE degrees** at this year's ceremony. Pictured are some of our grads before their procession into the **Prudential Center arena**.



managers, contractors and attorneys.

Jerome F. Gallagher, Jr., Esq.
'80 (Chair) Norris, McLaughlin,
Marcus, PA

Ted Cassera, P.E., '72
Bowman Consulting

Anthony Castillo, P.E., '95 '02
SESI Consulting Engineers

David Good, P.E., '78, '92
Mueser Rutledge Consulting
Engineers

Andre Grebenstein, LEED AP
'95, The Martin Group

Tony DeJohn, P.E., P.P.
WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff

Gareth Middleton, P.E., '93 '04
Tishman Construction, an
AECOM Company

Rocco Palmieri, P.E, P.P., PLS
'72, '77, Partner Engineering
and Science

Maurice Rached, P.E.
Maser Consulting

Ken Sisk, P.E., '95
Pizzarotti IBC

Joseph Stanley, P.E., P.P., '78,
'85, Mott MacDonald

Wei Wang, P.E., '95
Urban Tech

Michael Wright, P.E., P.P., PMP
'79 Arora and Associates, P.C.

Editors

Cynthia Gincel
Tom Jaworski
Tracey Regan
Heidi Young

Special Thanks

Strategic Communications
Office of Alumni Relations
Faculty/Staff, Students &
Alumni

Scholarships Donations

The Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) has created a scholarship fund to recognize CEE undergraduates students for their diligent preparation for professional licensure. Donating to this fund will ensure your gift reimburses testing fees to students who pass Fundamentals of Engineering exam.

[DONATE NOW](#)

2017 Scholarship Recipients

CEE Campaign

Aswina Ransinghe
William Sanchez

CEE IAB

Joseph Angeli
Marc Coimbra
Patrick DeLong
Shaun Delaney
James Dietze



Commencement Reception and Awards Ceremony



Student Excellence awards were distributed at the CEE Department's **7th annual Commencement Reception**, attended by students, families, faculty and alumni on May 16.

Awards were presented in recognition of students for their outstanding academic performance, leadership and service to the university community.

Alumni were also recognized for their continuing contributions to the civil engineering field.

[View](#) a list of Award recipients.

Louis Berger Graduate Fellowship

Civil engineering graduate student **Takudzwa Benox Mugabe**, a **2017-2018 Louis Berger Fellowship recipient**, is working at **Louis Berger's transportation division** in Morristown.

His career experience prior to Louis Berger was in Harare, Zimbabwe, working for ProStruct Consulting Engineers, where his father is one of the directors. It was from his father that he first gained insight into the work of a civil engineer.



James Dietze
 Daniel Fryer
 Michael Gambardella
 Gabrielle Grompone
 Connor Hughes
 Kevin Laforteza
 Christopher Menge
 Tuan Nguyen
 Onashile Obagbemileke
 Andres Osorio-Sanders
 Stefanie Pacifico
 Lahiru Pathirage
 Rebieann Reyes
 Mark Ulinski

Cassera Family

Daniel Cirasa

Gallagher Memorial

Joshua Loterena

GZA Corporate

Brandon Lapeyre

Jenny Endowed

Catherine Simpson

Kulhawy '64, '66

Justin Khalawan

Robert Medina '74

Gabriel Garcia

MOLES

Whittier Hua
 Ankur Patel

Papanicolau

Peter O'Connor

Quasi Construction

Alessandro Sestio

John. A Reif, Jr.

Cesar Alvarado
 Fatima Gamalel-Din
 Tiaja Harley
 Johanna Khemraj
 Ismael Mercado
 Richard Peters
 Isaac Rodriguez
 Marcos Sosa
 Dileyanne Spezio

Turner Construction

James Dietze
 Calvin Gould
 Naveen Kamath
 Candice Leung
 Timothy O'Donnell
 Connor McVey
 Christopher Siwczak

Turner Construction

Management

Joseph Angeli
 Arzu Alimjan
 Clara Basanti
 Ali Fardos
 Aliyar Kasumov

Where are they now?

Read alumni updates

'87 Anthony Del Vescovo
 '90 Mark Katarniak
 '91 Gregory Kelly
 '91 Rajendra Navalurkar
 '93 Kerri Tyerman
 '94 Scott Bleeker
 '98 Himanshu Bhatia
 '11 Melissa Salsano
 '12 Muhammad Elgammal
 '13 Michael Thomas

Faculty Promotions

Takudzwa: "I am filled with great pride when I hear people discussing the Trust Towers building in Harare because my father was the principal design engineer. The excellence of the work he produced effectively became an illustration of the fulfillment one could experience pursuing a career in civil engineering. I am happy to say this co-op experience with Louis Berger constitutes my first steps in pursuing that career."



Takudzwa Benox Mugabe

Takudzwa's assignment at Louis Berger has been vastly different than previous work because the structural design is focused almost exclusively on bridges. He is responsible for drafting reports and creating drawings from the "concept development" stage to the "final design" phase. This activity has provided lessons on clearly conveying information. Reporting is an important aspect of an engineer's work as a good design may be considered inferior if presented poorly.

Freshmen Orientation

Civil Engineering student **Elizabeth (Lizzy) Sheridan** serves as an **administrative coordinator** on the **New Student Orientation (NSO) Team** and assists incoming CEE freshman. Lizzy explains her interest in Civil Engineering and her passion for helping new students.

Why you are interested in engineering? *"I wanted to challenge myself by doing something that could better society and show that women can do anything men can do."*

Do you have an interest or passion for a particular area of the field?

"I'm interested in working for city government to improve the daily lives of people."

Describe your responsibilities as a freshman coordinator:

"I work to resolve any issues that come up, helping students schedule their orientation date, advising them what to bring and what they may need to succeed at NJIT. I let them know the name of their advisor, where to go if they get sick, etc. Many times, parents of incoming students like to hear a student's perspective on the school. I find my position very rewarding, because I help to alleviate any concerns that parents or students may have about NJIT. I hope that the entire NSO experience helps them to become better equipped for college."

What experience are you gaining to help you with your career?

"My work as administrative coordinator has helped me gain people skills, working with both my peers and their parents. Most of my work involves emailing, calling, or talking to students and parents, which has taught me how to work in an office setting. I've also learned how to work with a variety of different personalities, since our peer leader staff includes people with many different skills and ideas. These skills would benefit me when talking to contractors as well as coworkers."



Lizzy Sheridan
Administrative Coordinator
New Student Orientation

Research

360 Pipe Inspections

Under the supervision of **Professor Jay Meegoda, Jitendra Kewalramani (NJIT master's student) and Akila Saravanan (West Windsor Plainsboro High School North student)** began work on an innovative approach to conduct visual inspections of culverts. Culverts are drainage systems that carry water away from roads after rains. A defect in a culvert that results in flooding can threaten lives and property, while causing major damage and disruption when communities are cut off and habitats are swamped.



Remote-controlled crawler



[Play video](#)

The students have developed a cost-effective approach to study defects in these embedded structures. They have modified a remote controlled crawler to travel through culverts while taking 360-degree videos of the insides of the pipes. [Watch](#) the crawler in 360 action.

Alumni

**Congratulations
to CEE faculty
on their recent
promotions!**



Rongfang Liu
Associate Professor
to Professor



Wen Zhang
Assistant Professor to
Associate Professor

Ice Cream Man Cometh

It's a sweet treat, but for **Joe Marazzo '80** it's so much more and has been since he was a child. Indeed, ice cream not only represents a family legacy for the **NJIT civil engineering alum**, but also the means by which he paid his way through college.

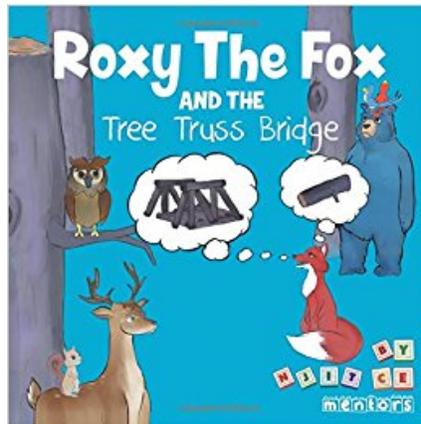
Marazzo owns and operates **Delicious Ice Cream**, a company established in 1955 by his father, Al, who sold ice cream seven days a week from April to October to supplement his income as a pipe-boom and heavy-truck operator with the City of New York's Water Department. He was the ice cream man in Marazzo's Staten Island neighborhood and drove a 1950 Chevy ice cream truck outfitted with a refrigeration unit...[More](#)



1948 Chevy Restoration

Outreach

When Forest Creatures Have a Problem, They Call an Engineer



Dreamed up by a team of **civil engineering and digital design students at NJIT**, the project-leading fox makes her debut in the recently published "[Roxy the Fox and the Tree Truss Bridge](#)."

The book is designed to show students from kindergarten through the third grade what an engineer does. In it, Roxy assembles a design-and-build crew to construct a bridge that will get her mates - bears, squirrels, beavers and deer - to the delicious berries on the other side of a stream.

Published by Xlibris and available for [purchase](#), a percentage of the proceeds from book sales will be donated to the **STEM program** in Newark public schools.

[Read](#) an interview with the students, **Gabrielle Grompone '17**, writing coordinator and **Joseph Vitale '19**, production coordinator.

Faculty

Robert John Craig's Legacy - The National ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition

In June, students from across the nation participated in the **American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 30th annual National Concrete Canoe Competition** in Golden, Colo. The idea for the national competition was presented to **ASCE** by **Robert John Craig**, an **NJIT civil engineering professor**, since concrete canoe construction incorporated his passions - the outdoors, canoeing, competition, civil engineering, problem solving, and teaching. After taking student teams to regional concrete canoe tournaments, he wanted more.

Professor Craig, who also served as the **ASCE New Jersey section president and vice chairman of the National Committee for Student Services**, among other roles, pushed the Society in 1985 to organize a national concrete canoe championship. In 1987, he led an **ASCE** committee to do just that.



The **first National Concrete Canoe Competition**, with sponsorship from Master Builders, was planned for 1988 at

Michigan State University. Tragically, John passed away from a rare brain tumor just months before the inaugural event he had worked so hard to establish. He was just 44 years old.

ASCE established the **R. John Craig Award** in his honor, given at each national competition to the winning team in the coed sprint race. Members of the Craig family honored John's lifetime of work, teaching, and innovation at this year's national competition.

This article was compiled from an ASCE June 16 news article: [Engineer's Vision for Concrete Canoe Now 30 Years Strong](#)

Spotlight

NJIT and Mercer County Community College Establish Academic Partnership



Beginning in Fall 2017, Mercer County Community College students will be able to earn a **B.S. in Civil Engineering** from NJIT while studying almost entirely at MCCC's campus... [More](#)



[Back to Top](#)

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