



FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Well, it has certainly been a very interesting year. A year and a half ago, we moved into the 2nd floor of Engineering North, and held a grand opening on Friday November 15, 2019. The spring 2020 semester started normally – until early March. More details below.

If you have items to suggest for our next newsletter, please email them to me.

Norb Delatte
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FIRST CLASS IN ENGINEERING NORTH 210 – AUGUST 19, 2019



ENGINEERING NORTH GRAND OPENING

We hosted faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends for our grand opening of our new home on the 2nd floor of Engineering North on Friday, November 15, 2019, followed by a dinner in the ATRC Student Excellence Center.



ENGINEERING NORTH GRAND OPENING (CONTINUED)



THE SCHOOL OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING RESPONDS TO THE PANDEMIC



In early March 2020, OSU planned to go completely online for instruction for two weeks following Spring Break. The two week period was extended through the end of the Spring 2020 semester. Faculty and staff worked remotely from off campus, until the beginning of July when we began to return.

CEAT faculty, staff, and administration worked hard to prepare for the Fall 2020 semester. Across OSU, classroom capacities were cut to a third. In CEAT, we were able to use Plexiglas shields to keep some classrooms at 2/3 of capacity, such as EN 210 shown below on the first day of the Fall semester.

Classes were held in places on campus that had never been classrooms before. Large classes such as Statics and Strength of Materials were held in the Colvin annex. The Sophomore Civil and Environmental Engineering Seminar was held on the second floor of the library.

While nearly all classes were face to face, the lectures were simultaneously streamed and recorded. The faculty and staff worked very hard this past year to continue to provide a quality education for all of our students.

RECOGNITION OF 2020 GRADUATES

We were able to honor and recognize our 2020 graduates in some small socially distanced ceremonies in our EN 210 classroom in November and December. So we were able to give out the Cowboy hard hats and safety vests. All of our projected 2020 graduates from the Spring and Fall semesters graduated this year.

Recognition of the December 2020 graduates was the Thursday before Thanksgiving, before classes went remote for the rest of the semester.

The May and August 2020 graduates were recognized on Saturday 12, December. Both ceremonies were recorded.



December 2020 graduates, families, and guests – singing the Alma Mater through masks



May and August 2020 graduates, families, and guests

MAY 2020 GRADUATES

BSCE

Askegaard, Thomas
Beasley, Rhett
Becker, Paul
Biby, Michelle
Bosworth, Gregory
Brian, Jeremiah
Bynum, Dakota
Carpin, Michael
Deeken, Rebecca

Dickerson, Davis
Feenstra, Chad
Filip, Christopher
Flaspohler, Jake
Fountain, Weslee
Galusha, Trevor
Gary, Darryl
Geeteh, Devin
George, Evan

Gordon, James
Harges, Jonathan
Hercyk, Hannah
Holden, Justin
Jimenez, Manuel
Kellogg, Braden
Kurtz, Chase
Mahrous, Awab
Matousek, Stephen

New, Thomas
Norris, Lucas
Ratke, Madelynn
Rigel, Trevin
Santana, Flavia
Schwarz, Rachel
Shaw, Madelyn
Simmons, Nicholas
Sink, Brendan

Stack, Payton
Strahorn, John
Thompson, Corina
Waldroup, Ethan
Wilkins, Kurt

MSCE/EVEN

Agbetunsin, Mayowa
Ahmadvand, Maryam

Aqib, Syed Muhammad
Brooks, Matthew

Finnell, Mark
Karunaratne, Evan

Kata, Divya Sree
Kokaly, Mccully

Lytle, Trevar

Ph.D.

Kang, Shinhyu

AUGUST 2020 GRADUATES

BSCE

Aldoukhi, Mashael

Buhamad, Zainab

Pekrul, Jacob

Raymer, Rick

MSCE/EVEN

Horn, James

Hamilton, Matthew

Sheikh, Imran Ahmed

Hong, Kangfeng

Ph.D.

Robertson, John

Zeng, Hang

Behravan, Amir

DECEMBER 2020 GRADUATES

BSCE				
Brewster, Dakota Cooper , Charles Fernandez, Gabriela Forsythe, Kyle	Goodhue, Joseph Guinn, Alexandria Hardy Janisch, Rhianna	James, Cody Jurgens, James Kasper Lewis, Kyle Miller, Morgan	Mootz, Chelsi Ryan, Hannah Scott, Jordan Wedler, Cristina	Winkle , Cody Yohe, Graydon Zoller, Marlo
MSCE/EVEN				
Karleskint, Kristin	Shults, Cody			
Ph.D.				
Alturki, Riyadh				

FACULTY UPDATES AND CHANGES

There have been a number of changes in our faculty ranks in the last year and a half.

NEW HIRES: A WARM COWBOY WELCOME TO...



Debakanta "Deb" Mishra
Started August 2019
Geotechnical Engineering



Jorge Gonzalez Estrella
Started August 2020
Environmental Engineering

PROMOTIONS: CONGRATULATIONS TO...



Joshua Li
Promoted to Associate
Professor with Tenure



Yongwei Shan
Promoted to Associate
Professor with Tenure



Kelvin Wang
Promoted to Regents
Professor

As far as we can tell, Kelvin is only the second Regents Professor ever at OSU from Civil and Environmental Engineering. The other was the late Don Kincannon.

DEPARTURES

Unfortunately we have had some departures as well.

Steve Cross retired, and **Gouranga Banik**, **David Lampert** and **Julie Hartell** left to other universities.

FACULTY AWARDS

CEAT EXCELLENT FACULTY AWARD:

Dr. Mark Krzmarzick
[More info here](#)

AMERICAN CERAMIC SOCIETY BRUNAUER AWARD:

Dr. Tyler Ley and **Dr. Qinang Hu** along with some colleagues from NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) received the Brunauer Award from the American Ceramic Society for the Best Paper of the Year as chosen by the Cements Division.

<https://ceramics.org/awards/s-brunauer-award>

<https://ceramics.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Brunauer-Recipient-List-2019-1.pdf>

OSU FACULTY FELLOW:

Dr. Mark Krzmarzick selected as an OSU Faculty Fellow
[More info here](#)

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

ASCE

The ASCE chapter adapted to the new conditions and has been having regular on-line meetings. Attendance has been low, but they are working on improving this spring. The canoe and bridge teams are also adapting to the changing aspects of their competitions as well. A couple of additional aspects:

- Beginning in fall of 2021, ASCE is realigning the competitive conferences. Our state will be merging with the conferences in Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico, with the first regional to be held in Texas in spring 2022.
- A new facility for the canoe and bridge teams is being considered, possibly by modifying a large shipping container. It would be located near the Cooper Lab.

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

The EWB chapter was unable to travel to Guatemala over spring break, but that has not stopped them from making progress on their new project there. They have begun preliminary design work on a pipeline that will transmit water from a central storage tank to the village of El Rancho in central Guatemala. The chapter raised funds to sponsor a local firm to survey and develop other data for the site. The chapter will work on design this spring, with the hope of traveling as soon as it is possible to begin implementation.

STUDENT AWARDS

Two former PhD students were hired as Assistant Professors.

Mehdi Khanzadeh was hired at Temple University.

Bret Robertson was hired at Montana Tech.

Our students have won some important nationally competitive fellowships recently.

Rabecca Wiseman 2020 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF)
Congratulations to Rabecca!

This is an extremely prestigious award. The GRF provides financial support for three years within a five-year fellowship period or until you graduate (whichever comes first), comprising a \$34,000 stipend per twelve-month Fellowship Year, disbursed in monthly allotments of \$2,833.

Bertold E. Weinberg Scholarship: **Erinn McArtor**, Oklahoma State University
Congratulations to Erinn! Continuing our strong winning streak with ACI Scholarships and Fellowships.

Md. Fazle Rabbi, a Ph.D. student in our program was recently awarded a \$ 5,000 fellowship by the Geosynthetic Institute for the 2020-2021 academic year. His research proposal was titled, “Effect of Geosynthetic Reinforcement on Compaction Behavior of Open Graded Aggregate Courses,” and is a part of his Ph.D. research focusing in the field of geotechnical engineering.

Wanying Zheng selected as an OSU Senior of Significance <https://news.okstate.edu/articles/communications/2020/osu-alumni-association-names-52-seniors-of-significance.html>

Two of our graduate students won both the first and second places in the poster competition for the 2020 Oklahoma Transportation Research Day (OTRD).

1st Place by **Caleb Bennett**

“Characterizing the Behavior of Steel Axial Lap Connections with Bolts and Welds in Combination” by Caleb Bennett, Ligang Shen, Mohamed Soliman, Bruce Russell

2nd place by **Wenyao Liu**

Utilizing Pavement Friction Data for the Reduction of Traffic Crashes and Delays (2nd Place)
Wenyao Liu, Joshua Qiang Li, Guangwei Yang, Xue Yang, Kelvin C. P. Wang

OSU PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING (PE) EXAM PASSING RATES

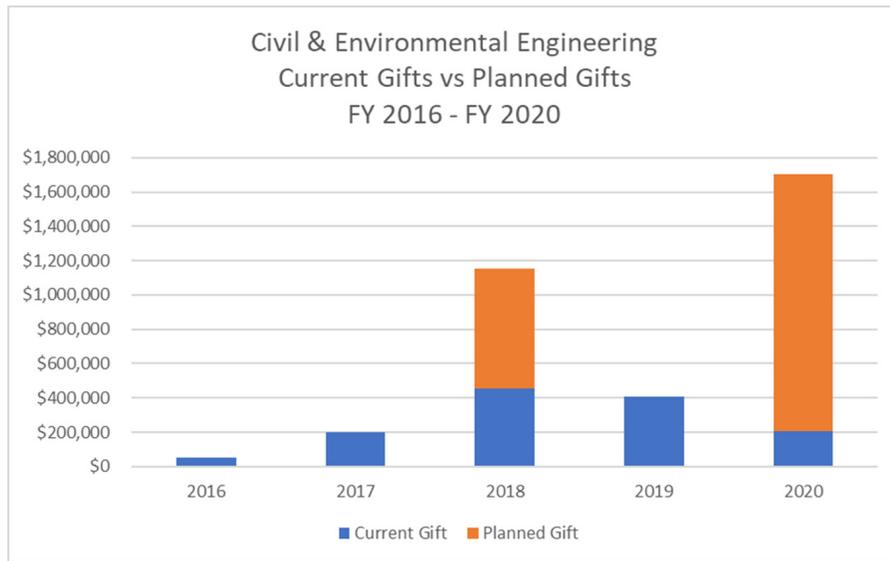
Between the 2011-12 and 2014-15 academic years, the department awarded just over 153 BSCE degrees. For the years 2016 – 2019, roughly four years later, 124 of our graduates took the FE, and 90 passed, for a 73 % passing rate. This is six percentage points above the national average. The breakdown is shown below. For transportation, structural, and water resources and environmental, OSU CIVE graduates scored well above national averages.

OSU CIVE PE EXAM STATISTICS, 2016 – 2019:

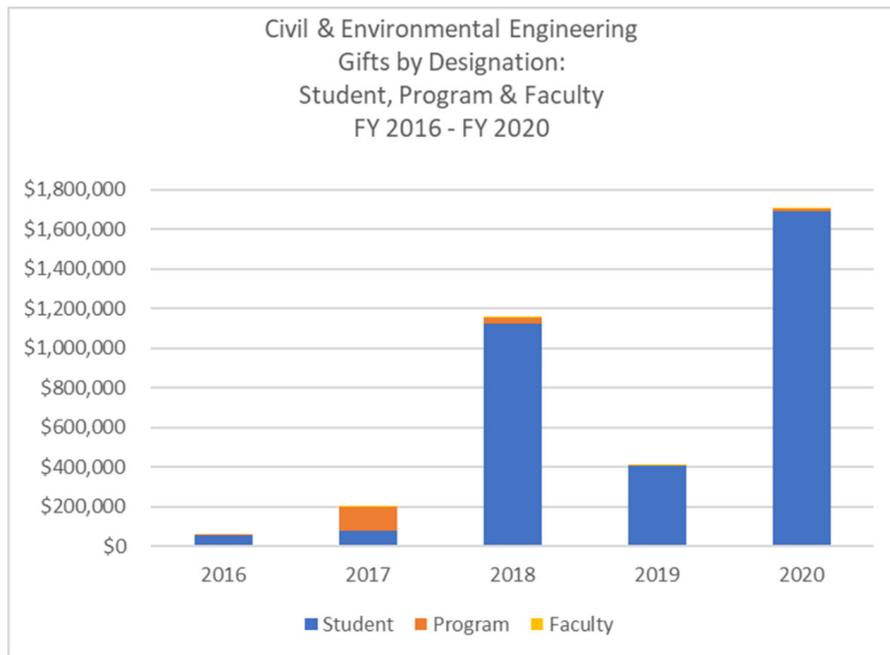
Topic	OSU taking	OSU passing	OSU % passing	National % passing
Civil-Construction	18	10	56%	61%
Civil-Geotechnical	6	4	67%	64%
Civil-Structural	43	30	70%	65%
Civil-Transportation	66	54	82%	69%
Civil-Water Resources and Environmental	24	21	88%	70%
Environmental	3	2	67%	74%
Overall	124	90	73%	67%

GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

We are very grateful for the strong support of our alumni and friends. The charts below show a breakdown of gifts. The first shows the totals and breakdown between planned and cash gifts from 2016 to 2020. For 2020, we have a huge increase in planned gifts, resulting in a total for the year of \$1.7 million. However, the actual current gifts dropped by half, to \$200,000.



The next chart shows the breakdown, between student, faculty, and program. Student gifts cover undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships. We have been very fortunate with student support.



The faculty gift area, which includes endowed chairs and professorships, is somewhat lower. The gifts to the program are lower as well.

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Fund (26-66000) is probably our single most important fund. This is the general purpose fund that we can use to support all of our departmental initiatives. This fund supports:

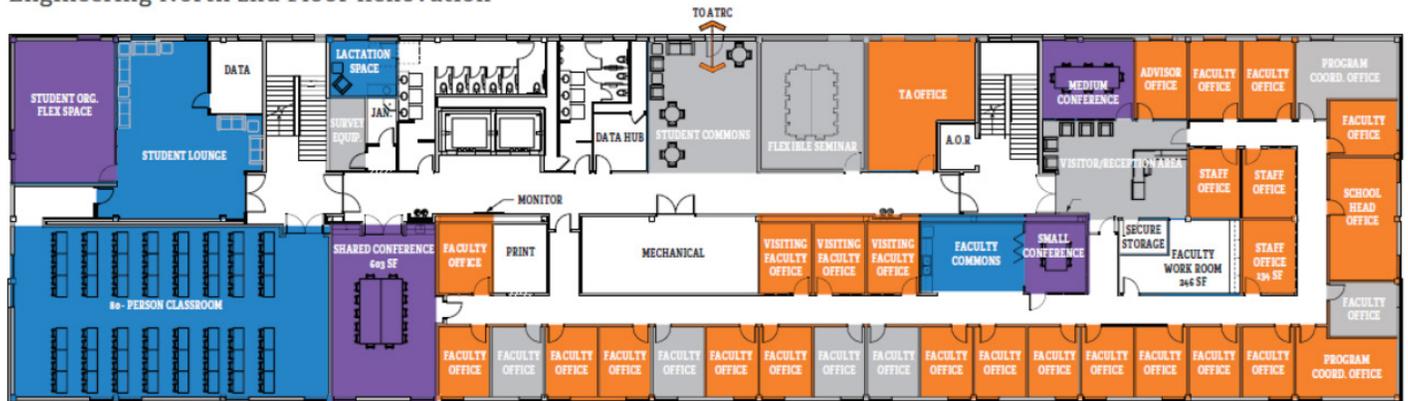
- Recognition of our graduates, which traditionally includes the Senior Dinner and the Cowboy Hard Hats and safety vests
- Support to student clubs and organizations
- The Engineering North renovation project, as well as furniture and other enhancements for the new spaces
- Study Abroad travel scholarships
- Supporting our efforts to recruit high quality faculty for the program.

Therefore, I would like to ask you to help us out with that fund. Through summer 2019, the School has awarded over 3,000 BSCE degrees. If half of our graduates gave just \$ 50 every year, that would provide \$ 75,000 to support these efforts.

Opportunities remain to support the Engineering North 2nd Floor Renovation Project. The figure below shows the spaces that have been named in gray. There are a number of faculty offices and other spaces that you can sponsor.

CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Engineering North 2nd Floor Renovation



Naming Opportunities

School | \$20M

Chair | \$1M

Professorship | \$500,000

Office Spaces

School Head Office | \$30,000

Advisor Office | \$10,000

Staff Office (3) | \$10,000

Visiting Faculty Office (3) | \$10,000

Faculty Office (16) | \$10,000

Program Coordinator Office (1) | \$15,000

TA Office | \$30,000

Conference Rooms

Shared Conference | \$100,000

Flexible Seminar | NAMED

Student Org. Flex Space | \$40,000

Conference Room - Medium | \$30,000

Conference Room - Small | \$20,000

Meeting Spaces

Student Commons | NAMED

Visitor/Reception Area | NAMED

Faculty Commons | \$25,000

Lactation Space | \$10,000

80-Person Classroom | \$250,000

Student Lounge | \$75,000

Survey Equipment Room | NAMED

How to Give

- Go to OSUgiving.com/CIVE
- Complete the secure, online form

For more information contact Jill Johnson at jjohnson@OSUgiving.com or 405.385.0733.

NEW FUND AGREEMENTS

We had a number of new funds created in 2019 and 2020, all to support students with scholarships and fellowships. Thank you so much to these generous donors.

FY 2019

26-02250 – C.S. Cho Family Endowed Scholarship in Civil & Environmental Engineering

26-00730 – King Family Endowed Scholarship

26-98080 – Keystone Engineering and Land Surveying Endowed Scholarship in Civil Engineering, Changed from Annual to Endowed

26-96400 – Dr. Garold D. Oberlender Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Construction Engineering & Project Management, Changed from Annual to Endowed

FY 2020

26-73850 – Fazel Family Endowed Graduate Fellowship

26-01120 – John and Tara Awezec Endowed Scholarship in Civil and Environmental Engineering

26-01140 – John and Tara Awezec Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Civil & Environmental Engineering

KEEPING UP WITH THE PROGRAM

This fall I recorded a new recruiting **VIDEO**

Please pass this on to any potential students for our program.

Do you want to get regular updates on the School? Join our OSU CIVE **LINKEDIN GROUP**

Please support the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering! You can by clicking **HERE**





GIFT/PLEDGE FORM

MAJOR GIFTS

In consideration of my/our interest in supporting the mission of Oklahoma State University, I/we wish to make a gift as outlined below:

Pledge contributed by donor:	Pledge contributed by company matching gift:	Total Pledge:
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

To be designated as follows:

My/our gift commitment will be fulfilled in the following manner:

Total pledge to be paid over _____ years (not to exceed five) as follows:

First pledge payment of \$ _____ to be made on or about _____ (date)

Remaining pledge payments to be made on the following schedule:

_____ annually, beginning on _____ (date)

_____ other _____

Please make check payable to OSU Foundation. A pledge reminder letter will be sent to you prior to each pledge payment date. To learn more about how gifts are allocated, please visit OSUgiving.com.

For gift recognition purposes, please list my/our name(s) as indicated below:

_____ I/we wish to remain anonymous.

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

You will receive receipts for the tax-deductible portion of your payment itemizing your contribution.

Corporate Matching Gifts:

_____ This gift will be matched by my employer, _____.