

Cecil T. Lobo ASCE Student Chapter Wins Ridgway Award—Again

For the second consecutive year, our Cecil T. Lobo ASCE student chapter has been awarded the Robert Ridgway Award as the nation's best chapter based on outstanding community service, professional activities, campus service and chapter performance reports.

Rose-Hulman joins Mississippi State University and West Virginia University Institute of Technology as the only back-to-back Ridgway Award winners since 1990. Rose-Hulman also earned the nation's top honor in 1998. Past winners include Brigham Young University, Northeastern University, Cornell University, California Polytechnic State University and South Dakota State University. The honor was established in 1965 in honor of Robert Ridgway, who served as ASCE's president in 1925.



(Left to right: Sylvia Lobo, Michael Reeves, Randy Over from ASCE and Robert Houghtalen)

Patrick Natale, ASCE executive director, cited Rose-Hulman's chapter for "excellence in the effective and meritorious conduct of its affairs as a student chapter of ASCE through the ability and professional diligence of the Chapter officers, members and faculty advisors." The committee particularly noted the chapter's exemplary activities and public service. The award was presented on campus May 17 prior to the Department of Civil Engineering's Senior Picnic and Order of the Engineer ceremony.

The chapter's 91-page report detailed public service activities such as collection for the Terre Haute Tribune-Star Christmas food basket program, the Habitat for Humanity golf tournament, a HEC-RAS training workshop, providing review sessions for the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, educational activities for Rose-Hulman's Explore Engineering and Youth Science Day programs, and building a wheelchair ramp for a local resident.

The chapter has always emphasized having a lot of fun while working hard. Student-focused chapter activities included ASCE cookouts outside the Materials Lab; Civil Pride Fridays breakfasts comprised of Square Donuts, juice and milk; and making numerous field trips, including the new Indianapolis Airport terminal, Hulman Street sewer construction, Cheetah Building Products, and Coreslab Structures, an Indianapolis pre-cast concrete plant.

The chapter has a membership of over 100 students. The 2005-06 chapter officers were Mike Reeves of Avon, Indiana, president; Cassidy Sutton, vice president, a senior from Loogootee, Indiana; Chris Hollen, treasurer, a junior from Eckerty, Indiana; and Michael Krantz, secretary, a sophomore from Hanover, Indiana. Prof. Kevin Sutterer is in his fourth year as the chapter's faculty adviser. Prof. Jim McKinney and Kevin Forbes (director of engineering for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway) are the current Practitioner Advisers. Kathy Nicoson, department secretary, and Keith Royer, department technician, have also been indispensable to the chapter's success.

Chairman's Perspective

The 2005-06 school year is over, and it has been one of the most rewarding and one of the most difficult in my five years as department head. Why rewarding? Our senior class has a list of accomplishments that makes our faculty extremely proud. First and foremost, the Cecil T. Lobo Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers received the Ridgway Award as being the best student chapter in the country. (Read more about it in another article in this newsletter.) In addition, the senior design reports were, collectively, the best that I have received in 18 years. They were well written, thorough, and extremely well-received by their clients. Adding to the list of accomplishments, all of our seniors took the FE exam, and we are hoping for a 100% passing rate, like last year. And finally, one of the senior design groups received the best presentation award at the Indiana Section meeting, for the 11th time in 13 years. This has been quite a year!!

Why has the year been difficult? Because we are preparing for an accreditation visit from ABET, Inc. The process of assessment and preparing the report is arduous. Fortunately, we have a terrific CE program with great students and an accomplished and dedicated faculty. As part of this process, we rely on feedback from all of our constituents, which includes students, alumni, employers, and the CE Board of Advisors. (Please see a related article on the results of the latest alumni survey.) The ABET visit and review is in late October, and we hope to be fully accredited for another six year period.

I have one other reason to feel this was a very rewarding year, a personal reason. My oldest son (Jesse) will be graduating with the 2006 CE class. It was a little awkward the first time I had him in class, but we both adjusted quickly. Although we made a pact to minimize our conversation about school, at times he couldn't resist telling me how I could become a better teacher and department head. In general, it was very good advice. It has been a terrific four years having him here, and I will miss him as he travels to the Sudan to work in an educational institution in that east African nation.

Civil Engineering Department News

- A senior project requiring the design of riparian wetlands was performed for the Wabash River Development and Recreational Committee, on which Pat Goodwin (Class of 1995) is a member.
- The final presentation was made to the community with the Mayor, city and county officials, state legislators, and television and newspaper reporters in attendance.
- Dr. John Aidoo, our new structures professor, has finished his first year. He was very well received by our students.
- The freshmen design field trip was to Indianapolis where we visited the new airport, the new Colts stadium, a wastewater treatment plant, and a CSO project. Kudos to Christopher Burke (and John Stolz from our Board) for their assistance.
- One senior group designed a low impact subdivision for Josh Reed (Class of 2003).
- Once again, all of our CE students sat for the FE exam this spring. Of course there is a big difference between sitting for the exam and passing the exam. Good luck!!
- We completed our first international senior design project this year, a missionary compound in Trinidad. Another project was an airport terminal in Las Vegas.
- Drs. Hanson and Houghtalen will present a paper at the annual American Society of Engineering Educators' meeting in Chicago on the international senior design project. One of the senior participants, Matt Lovell, will assist in the presentation.
- Dr. James Hanson was honored in March with the American Concrete Institute's 2006 Young Member Award for Professional Achievement.
- Next years senior class will include 49 students, the largest graduating class in RHIT history. Enrollment is hovering around 170 CE students, again a record.
- Dr. Houghtalen visited five RHIT-CE alumni in Honolulu recently. They are from the post World War II era, and all are very accomplished. The alumni include Don Shimazu, Shinji Soneda, Fujio (Fudge) Matsuda, John Loomis, and Al Yee.

2005 Alumni Survey Summary

Alumni surveys continue to help us improve our CE program. Dr. McKinney instituted alumni surveys when he was Department Head; specifically for alumni one year after graduation and five years after graduation. Last fall, an Institute-wide electronic survey was taken, which will be an annual occurrence. Don't be alarmed, you will only be asked to participate once every five years or so. Last year we surveyed the classes of 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2004. I thought we should share with you some of the results:

Response rate for graduation year: (43 responses; 2 did not report position/year)

1985 => 6 of 19 (32%); 1990 => 5 of 18 (28%); 1995 => 10 of 30 (33%)

2000 => 9 of 18 (50 %); 2004 => 11 of 25 (44%)

- Civil Engineering Program Educational Objectives (PEOs): Alumni were asked to assess the importance of the CE PEOs with regards to importance and RHIT contribution toward their achievement. All PEOs ranked close to a 4.0 on a 5.0 scale (i.e., we probably have the correct PEOs), and all of the contribution scales closely matched the importance scale (i.e., we are probably achieving them).
- Civil Engineering Outcomes: Alumni were asked to assess the importance of the CE Outcomes with regards to importance and RHIT contribution toward their achievement. There is significant variability in importance (i.e., global, culture, and experiments rank rather low and ethics, teams, communications, problem solving, and interpreting data score very high). Interestingly, design ranked sixth among the 10 outcomes. The RHIT contributions to achievement of outcomes very nearly match the importance scale for all outcomes except experiments (which scores low in importance and high in achievement) and communication and ethics (which score high in importance and lags slightly in achievement).
- Program strengths – Strong fundamentals, learned discipline, personnel attention, committed faculty, problem solving ability, team skills, and small classes.
- Program weaknesses – Cost, cost, cost, and a few comments on more oral/written communications, more elective classes, more CAD, present department head.
- Future directions– more GIS, internships, management/business/entrepreneurship, mentor program, and construction program.
- RHIT alumni with graduate degrees (52%); CE alumni (32%) - big state schools
- RHIT alumni w/post BS classes not counting toward a degree (30%); CE alumni (30%)
- CE alumni with PE's (42%) => Plan to take within next year (26%)
- Employment of CE's (40% consulting, 35% construction, 14% development, 12% management, 9% operations/maintenance)
- 98% still work in their CE field (most in companies of 150-1000 employees)
- Civil incomes: Bad news: more CE's are in the \$40K to \$60K range than other RHIT alumni; Good news: The percentage of CE's making over \$100K is twice that of other RHIT alumni.
- Many alums in management/leadership positions (66% - 1985 alums, 100% of 1990, 60% of 1995)

Mark Your Calendar

October 7, 2006—Homecoming Reception for Civil Alumni hosted by the CE Department

November 29, 2006—CE Board of Advisors Meeting

Alumni Spotlight

GARY L. TUCKER (1976) sends word that he is now the General Manager for the Phoenix and Las Vegas operations of Hanlon Engineering & Associates, Inc., a full-service EPCM firm based in Tucson, Arizona, specializing in bulk material handling, water-wastewater treatment, and civil/electrical/mechanical and process controls design servicing manufacturing, production, distribution and mining concerns throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

JASON FEE (1994) has a new position with Janssen & Spaans Engineering, Inc. in Columbus, Indiana.

PATRICK GOODWIN (1995) updates us that he and his wife, Marti, now have four children: Caroline, Max, Ellie and Sylvia.

JEREMY S. MILLIMAN (1997) reports the birth of his first child Olivia, born last June. Also Jeremy has started a new job as an instructor with the civil engineering faculty at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

ERIC WATHEN (1997) has been working for Rinker Materials as the Indiana Region Engineer since September of 2003. He works with the civil engineering community to help specify reinforced concrete pipe, box culvert and stormwater quality devices. He and his wife Ann live in Brownsburg, Indiana with their three boys Zane, Drew, and Tyler.

DON BALES (1998) and his wife, Bonnie, announce the birth of their first child, Faith Elizabeth. Additionally, he updates us that he received his professional engineer license in 2003.

CHRIS BOYD (1998) and his family moved to Maine three years ago. He started with a new company in January, Taggart Construction, Inc. in Freeport, Maine.

SEAN STOUGHTON (1999) recently passed the PE and is now registered in Wyoming. He will be attending the University of Denver in the fall for grad school.

RICK ARNOLD (2000) shared with us that he married his high school sweetheart about a year and a half ago and they are expecting their first child in June.

MICAH J. SOMARRIBA (BEAVER) (2002) started working for a construction company near San Diego, California called DYK, Inc. in March. He is a business development representative and engineer. DYK designs, engineers, and builds prestressed, concrete water tanks for municipalities and land developers.

SHAD SCHOPPERT (2002) is now working for the Alaska Air National Guard as a civil engineer.

KEEP IN TOUCH

We are always interested in how our alumni are doing. Let us know about you! Keep in touch by e-mailing us at kathy.nicoson@rose-hulman.edu with your current contact information and what you are doing.

Alumni Spotlight (Cont.)

ERIK WRIGHT (2002) reports the birth of his second child, Merideth Pauline, born on May 1st. He will be going back to the Middle East soon for about a year.

KEVIN WALDROUP (2003) was hoping to make it back to Indiana in May but found out that he will be going back to Iraq again. He will be leaving the end of May for Fort Hood, Texas for 40 days of training then back to Iraq for probably another year. He will be part of a small team training the Iraqi army.

SARAH BIRELEY AND DREW FURRY (2004) were married on April 15, 2006, in White Chapel at Rose-Hulman. Sarah is an associate in the site engineering department with Lauth Property Group and Drew is an assistant engineer with Turner Construction.

TIMOTHY BROWN (2004) is currently working in the Chickamauga Chattanooga National Military Park in Georgia for the Federal Highway Administration. He is slated to travel to the Virgin Islands in November for a two to three year assignment working on two cast-in-place bridges and a new by-pass around a mountain.

MATT HORNE (2004) reports that he is engaged to Katie McNutt (a student at Rose) and she will be moving to Arizona this summer to attend dental school. He was named Outstanding Analyst for the Western Region, which is an award for Engineers in Training.

ANDREA MAILLOUX (2005) moved to South Bend the first of the year and is working for DLZ.

CE Award Winners 2005-2006

ASCE Alumni Award

Michael C. Reeves—Class of 2006 from Avon, Indiana

Civil Engineering Faculty Award

Jason R. Bednarko—Class of 2007 from Athens, Illinois

Indiana Section ASCE Outstanding Student Award

Joshua M. Jacobs—Class of 2006 from Harrison, Ohio

Michael H. Krantz—Class of 2008 from Hanover, Indiana

Morris L. Cleverley Award

Joshua D. Brittain—Class of 2006 from Ferdinand, Indiana

Shelton Hannig Award

Matthew D. Lovell—Class of 2006 from Brownsburg, Indiana

CE Department “Star Student” Award

Patrick H. Ludwig—Class of 2006 from Valparaiso, Indiana



Best in The Nation, Again: 2005-06 officers and faculty advisors of the Cecil T. Lobo student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers gather in front of the Lobo Civil Engineering Sculpture after receiving the Robert Ridgway Best Chapter Award. The group includes (from left) Kevin Sutterer, faculty advisor; Chris Hollen, treasurer; Cassidy Sutton, vice president; Michael Reeves, president; Lauren Hughes, community service chair; Josh Jacobs, activities director; and Jim McKinney, professional contact.