

November 2005
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CIVIL ECHOES

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Chairman's Perspective

Another school year has started, and it promises to be full of accomplishments by our civil engineering students and faculty. Bob Bright has taken over as interim CEO and President of the Board of Trustees as we search for a new president. We continue our "2015" discussion on campus; that is, what will we need to do to prepare our students for fruitful careers in the 21st Century. The faculty, staff, and students are optimistic that we will remain committed to engineering, science, and mathematics education.

I would like to mention a few accomplishments by our students, faculty, and alumni. Our ASCE student chapter is the nation's best. Mike Reeves (President), Cassidy Sutton (Vice President), and Michael Krantz (Secretary) just returned from the ASCE Annual Convention in Los Angeles where they picked up the Ridgway Award. It will be on display in the hall cabinet outside our offices in Olin Hall. Many thanks to last years officers, particularly Cory Howell, Andrew Twarek, Mike Reeves, and David Pirnia, the leaders of the outstanding service project, Phillip Griffith and Jeffrey Poole, the chapter advisor, Dr. Kevin Sutterer, and the professional contact member, Dr. James McKinney.

Faculty members achieved some milestones of their own. Dr. Jim Hanson received the Daniel V. Terrell Award from the District Nine Council of the ASCE. This award is presented for the "Outstanding Paper" in District Nine (Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas). Jim's paper was entitled "Determining the Ethical Use of Engineering Software Programs." During Homecoming, I was humbled to be chosen an honorary alumnus from Rose-Hulman during Homecoming festivities. I am honored to be counted among you and thank any of you who had something to do with it. (And to the rest, you missed your chance to blackball me.) Josh Reed ('03) told me at Homecoming that I received my degree from Rose-Hulman the easy way. I asked him why (I should have known better), and he said "You did not have to take any of your own tests."

Homecoming 2005 was a great success. It was nice to see so many of you; our attendance was up by about 50%. During the departmental open house, we paid tribute to all past ASCE officers for putting us in a position to receive the 2005 Ridgway Award. We also paid tribute to Bill Pine '85 for receiving a 2005 Career Achievement Award from Rose-Hulman. And finally, we collectively thanked Mickey and Vicki Hines for establishing the Jim Diehl Scholarship. The Jim Diehl Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a Civil Engineering student, who, in the opinion of the CE faculty, displays desire and ability to improve transportation infrastructure. Cassidy Sutton is the first recipient.



Best in the Nation: Past and current officers of Rose-Hulman's Cecil Lobo student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers were all smiles after receiving the Robert Ridgway Award as the nation's top chapter. Attending the award presentation were (from left) Cory Howell, 2004-05 chapter president; Cassidy Sutton, 2005-06 vice president; Michael Krantz, 2005-06 secretary; and Michael Reeves, 2005-06 president.

Dyer, Houghtalen Elected Honorary Alumni

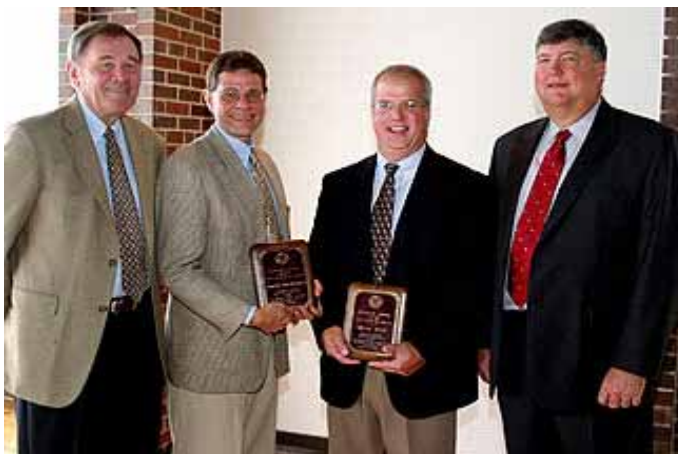
Two Rose-Hulman employees who have a combined 40 years of service at the college were elected this year to be honorary alumni. Brian Dyer, director of alumni affairs; and Robert Houghtalen, professor and head of the Department of Civil Engineering, were chosen in a vote by alumni to receive the honor.

Outgoing Alumni Association President Jeff Burgan announced the vote results during the annual Homecoming Alumni Awards Breakfast Oct. 1.

Dyer was named director of alumni affairs in 1998 after serving 16 years in the Rose-Hulman admissions office.

"During the past seven years, Brian has brought a high energy level and many creative, new ideas that have made a tremendous difference in the services Rose-Hulman provides to its graduates," Burgan stated.

Burgan described Houghtalen as a distinguished scholar and outstanding teacher who puts his students first.



From left: Robert Bright, chairman of the Board of Trustees and chief executive officer, Robert Houghtalen, Brian Dyer and Jeff Burgan, outgoing Alumni Association president.

Houghtalen has been a member of the faculty for 17 years. He has received the Rose-Hulman Board of Trustees Outstanding Scholar Award and studied in Germany as a Fulbright Scholar. Burgan cited Houghtalen's contributions for leading the Department of Civil Engineering to its No. 1 ranking as the nation's best undergraduate civil engineering program in the latest results of the national survey conducted by U.S. News and World Report.

Houghtalen's son, Jesse, is a senior majoring in civil engineering. Robert's wife, Judy, is a member of the staff in the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment.

Bill Pine Receives Honor Alumni Award

Recipients of the Honor Alumni Award are selected based on their (a) loyal, unselfish and meritorious service in furthering the interests of Rose-Hulman, (b) contributing to the national interest of our country, (c) professional achievement. Rose-Hulman honors four alumni with this honor each year. Recipients are recognized during Homecoming.

William Pine, a 1985 RHIT CE graduate was recently recognized as an Honor Alumni Award recipient at Homecoming. Bill is a Research Engineer with the Heritage Group in Indianapolis and a Technical Advisor with Emulsicoat, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. He graduated in 1985 with a bachelor's of science in civil engineering. He worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation in District 5 at Paris, from 1985 to 1998, spending most of that time in the Bureau of Materials, working with Hot Mix Asphalt design, production and placement issues. Bill started with the Heritage Group in 1999, where his role is focused on supporting the various Heritage Group companies and their customers. He recently spent time in Russia developing hot mix asphalt designs for Siberian roads. He was also instrumental in the pavement design for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Formula One track, as well as the recent resurfacing of the Speedway 2-1/2 mile oval.

Jim Diehl Scholarship

Mickey Hines, RHIT CE 1984, along with his wife Vicki, has established a new Rose-Hulman scholarship to honor former Vigo County Commissioner and public servant Jim Diehl. Vicki Hines is one of Diehl's daughters.

Diehl died in 1998 while serving his fourth term as a Vigo County Commissioner. He won every election in which he was on a ballot over a 25-year span, serving as Otter Creek Township Assessor, county council member, county assessor and commissioner. He championed such community projects as the expansion of Terre Haute International Airport, the county-wide zoning ordinance, the Vigo County Industrial Park, the bridge replacement program, and the dedicated wheel tax for road improvements.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a civil engineering student, who, in the opinion of Rose-Hulman faculty members displays a desire and ability to improve transportation infrastructure. The award acknowledges the tradition of Rose-Hulman civil engineers working with elected officials on public projects, in roles such as state, city or county engineers, consultants, contractors and suppliers.

The first Jim Diehl Scholarship recipient is Cassidy Sutton, a senior from Loogootee, Ind.

Mickey Hines, whose career has been in the area of paving materials with Koch Performance Roads, earned the RHIT 2004 Career Achievement Award. Recently he joined Jack Deboer of Wichita, Kansas in developing a national chain of 1,500+ extended stay hotels and apartments called Value Place.

Environmental Engineering Update

A graduate education is becoming more important to the civil engineer as they seek to advance in their career. The M.S. Environmental Engineering program at Rose-Hulman offers civil engineers the opportunity to earn a graduate education from the leaders in undergraduate engineering education. The program provides a sound foundation in the environmental engineering field along with an opportunity to explore the engineering management field. If you are interested or know of someone thinking about graduate school please contact Dr. Robinson at 812-877-8286 to discuss the opportunities available at Rose-Hulman.

DongYan Mu, a graduate student from China who started in the environmental engineering graduate program in 2004, won the 2004 Graduate Fellowship award offered by the Rose-Hulman graduate program. She was awarded two quarters of graduate assistantship for her winning research proposal. Dong Yan's project involves investigating the thermal impact of aeration processes on the performance of wastewater treatment.

Upgrades to the environmental engineering laboratory continue as the environmental engineering program begins to emphasize innovative and sustainable water / wastewater treatment technologies. Dr. Michael Robinson, along with Dr. Miller, Chemistry Department, and Dr. Ingram, Applied Biology Department, won a Rose-Hulman Faculty Success grant to establish an ecological systems laboratory. Work will begin this summer on characterizing the JI Case Wetland and Wildlife Refuge. The wetland borders the northern edge of campus and will provide great education opportunities for our students.

ASCE Student Chapter News

It has been a busy fall for the student chapter. In addition to our regular chapter meetings and occasional Friday cookouts, the chapter attended several field trips, has been doing service work, and sent several of its officers to the ASCE Annual Meeting in Los Angeles to accept the 2005 Ridgway Award.

One of our favorite field trips was to the Indianapolis Airport Midfield Terminal construction site. The chapter wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to Joel Ericson (2002) for arranging the trip. CE alums Ken Koziol (1992) and Dan Allen (2002) also assisted with hosting the chapter. The chapter also visited the new Hulman Street sewer project in Terre Haute, hosted by alum Laura Hemming (2005).

The chapter's service work included hosting middle school students for several sessions of the Explore Engineering program and facilitating a series of three HEC RAS workshops for Indiana area engineers. Although the second event is also a fundraiser for the chapter, part of the motivation is the workshop's value as an educational service to the Indiana engineering community.

President, Mike Reeves, Vice President Cassidy Sutton, and Secretary Michael Krantz joined past president Cory Howell in Los Angeles to accept the 2005 Ridgway Award at the ASCE Annual Meeting. The group assisted with and attended most of the student program activities at the meeting. They also had some real adventures around the city of LA.

Professional Development of the Faculty

Life long learning is one of the goals we establish for our students. To set an example, the Civil Engineering faculty continues to maintain a high level of professional competence through teaching, professional development, and service. Some of the professional activities that our faculty participated in last year include:

- Dr. McKinney continues to coordinate the very popular INDOT/RHIT Hot Mix Asphalt Quality Assurance Program and the less popular (campus) FE exam.
- Dr. Sutterer continues his NSF funded summer program in engineering forensics; and was one of a select few to present the results of his program on Capital Hill.
- Drs. Robinson and Sutterer serve on a subcommittee of the ASCE Task Committee on Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice. (The committee is charged with developing the requisite body of knowledge for the 21st century civil engineer.)
- Dr. Hanson continues his educational research in metacognition to teach evaluation of results in structural analysis and the use of Covey's seven habits in freshmen design.
- Dr. McKinney continues to consult with city, county, and state governments about transportation safety, trail designs, and pavement improvements.
- Dr. Sutterer and Dr. Robinson worked with eight REU students from around the nation this summer on three different engineering failure studies.
- Dr. Sutterer and Dr. Hanson continue their research on monitoring foundation settlement on the new Rose-Hulman apartment residence hall.
- Dr. Martin Thomas continues as chairman of the Vigo County Air Pollution Control Board.
- Drs. Thomas and Robinson continue to engage in applied research with their environmental engineering graduate students, particularly in the area of constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment.
- Civil engineering faculty members continue to engage in professional writing.
- Dr. Aidoo and Houghtalen had journal publications last year.
- Four of our seven faculty members had papers published in the proceedings of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) annual conference.
- Dr. Houghtalen continues to teach ASCE continuing education courses for practicing engineers around the country.

Alumni Highlights

RIC POWERS (1974) recently was named “Supervisor of the Year” by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Savannah District. He is the Corps’ area engineer at Robins Air Force Base, where he supervises 23 employees and is responsible for more than \$150 million in construction projects. He also has management oversight of resident engineer offices at Moody Air Force Base and Fort McPherson. He was nominated for the award by members of his staff.

JIM PECK (1985) updates Echoes that four years ago he started Civil Designs, LLP, which now employs 18 people and recently received the Indiana University (Johnson Center) Growth 100 Award given to the fastest growing companies in Indiana. The firm is based in Indianapolis.

JOHN LUEKEN (1987) has accepted the position of U.S. Director of Construction for McDonald’s USA. He and his family live in Naperville, Illinois.

MICHAEL R. WALDBIESER (1993) has started a new company, Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in Terre Haute.

JEREMY EFFING (1994) has started a new position with Wagner Truss Manufacturing in Napoleon, Indiana. He will be doing sales, design, and marketing of roof framing, floor framing and plan design.

DON POTTER (1994) has joined the Thompson Thrift Construction firm in Terre Haute as project engineer.

TIM WUESTEFELD (1998) recently was transferred by Hunt Construction to Ft. Lauderdale to build a \$170 MM 5-star hotel/condo complex after finishing a Marriott in downtown Louisville.

BILL ODLE (1999) recently began working for Friendswood Development Company in Houston, Texas as an Acquisitions Manager. He will be in charge of raw land purchases in an area of Houston.

ANDREW GORDON (2002) married Melinda Dant last January in Indianapolis. They live in Indianapolis where Andrew works for M.D. Wessler & Associates as a design engineer. Congratulations Andrew and Melinda.

SHAD SCHOPPERT (2002) is in Kirkuk, Iraq serving with the Air Force.

JEREMY KASHMAN (2003) and his wife, Megan, announce the birth of daughter Tori Elizabeth, born on Dec. 4, 2004.

WENDY PACKARD (2003) started this fall at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon.

ADAM POPPLEWELL (2004) exchanged wedding vows with Breanne Everett in July 2004.

JIM WALTER (2004) reports that he recently relocated from San Diego to Hollywood, California in order to start a new position with Harman Consumer Group (parent company to Harman Kardon, Infinity, JBL and Revel). His new title is Transducer Engineer. He designs speakers for home theaters and car stereos.

Alumni Highlights Cont.

ANDREA MAILLOUX (2005) is engaged to Paul Mikrut who is also a Rose grad (ME). She is an engineer in training for Joseph A. Scudt Associates in Frankfort, Illinois. He is pursuing a graduate degree in aerospace engineering at the University of Notre Dame.

ANDREW MULLIS (2005) is working as a Field Engineer for Gilbert Southern Corporation on the Alico Road/I-75 interchange in Fort Myers, Florida.

Obituaries

CHARLES S. MEURER (1942) died December 25, 2004. He was 84. Survivors include his wife, Helen, and sons, Lonnie and James. He had almost 50 years of civil engineering experience, providing services to clients in both the public and private sectors. He was secretary/treasurer of Meurer Engineering.

J. WILLIAM KEPLER II (1949) died last December. He was employed for many years by Sanford Company as a civil engineer/general contractor. He was chairman of the board of the Indiana Laborer Training Fund and Training Institute, and he was a co-founder of Associated Builders Union. Survivors include a son, John W. Kepler III, and a daughter, Morgan Kepler.

ROBERT C. SOMERS (1949) died last October in Louisville. He was retired from Louisville Gas & Electric as senior vice president of operations. Survivors include his wife, Sue, a daughter, Jacqueline Shadle, and two sons, Robert and Russell.

JOHN M. WEIBEL, SR. (1949) died February 23, 2005 at the age of 79. Survivors include two sons, John and Marcus, and two daughters, Leigh W. Everette and Ann W. Jarvie.

CHARLES FRANKLIN PIPER (1961) died March 6 in Salem, Arkansas. He was a civilian engineer for the U.S. Air Force. Survivors include his wife, Nancy, a son Keith, and two daughters, Deborah Tesch and Carol DeSimone.

ROGER A. MEURER (1967) died last year. He was a founder and president of Meurer Engineering.

Mark Your Calendar

November 30, 2005—CE Board of Advisors Meeting

November 30, 2005—ASCE Winter Banquet

May 20, 2005—ASCE Golf Tournament (Tentative) Rea Park Course

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.