Hi Amy — here is the final draft of the email for today. The edits mainly consist of using CEE instead of the full department name once it has been spelled out once, removing the Dr. honorific (this is a real sticking point for some people, but the style guide dictates that it not be used editorially), and un-capitalizing "department" as is the style preference of the University...please let me know if anything else needs doing before I tell them it's ready to queue! — Sarah

Fall 2021
The Bridge
CEE Newsletter

Dear CEE alumni and friends:

It has been great to have everyone back on the Amherst campus this fall for mostly in-person experiences of learning, advancing knowledge in Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), and providing service to the Commonwealth while also facilitating appropriate and needed hybrid/remote interaction options, likely to be a feature of everyone’s lives moving forward.

I am excited about the expected increase in opportunities for Civil and Environmental Engineers to provide Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering services to meet societal needs while protecting the environment to confront the challenges of aging infrastructure and climate change.

I am pleased to share with you via this newly formatted “The Bridge” newsletter a few of the recent accomplishments of faculty, staff, and students in CEE, shown in the list below and the following news items.

Konstantinos (Kostas) Andreadis — UMass ADVANCE 2021–2022 Faculty Fellow
Sanjay R. Arwade — COE 2021 Outstanding Teaching Award
Jessica Boakye — UMass Amherst 2021–2022 TIDE Ambassador
Mark Gauthier — COE 2021 Dean’s Outstanding Service Award
The University of Massachusetts Amherst's Institute for Applied Life Sciences (IALS) has announced that six campus research teams have been named recipients of the 3rd annual Manning/IALS Innovation Awards.

Sergio F. Breña of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department was among the 24 STRIDE Faculty Fellows announced recently by Amel Ahmed, associate provost for equity and inclusion, as part of the 2021 STRIDE Faculty Fellowship Program.

Colin J. Gleason — COE 2021 Barbara H. and Joseph J. Goldstein Outstanding Junior Faculty Award
Edward H. Kalajian ’69MS, ’71PhD — CEE 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award
Michael Knodler Jr. — UMass 2021 ADVANCE Faculty Peer Mentor Award
Kara Peterman — COE 2021 TIDE Accelerator Award and COE 2021 Outstanding Teaching Award
Christine Roy ’04, ’05MS — CEE 2021 Outstanding Young Alumni Award
Cielo Sharkus — COE 2021 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

Please know that all of us in CEE welcome any opportunity to communicate with you and thank you for all you do for UMass Amherst and the CEE department!

Sincerely,

John E. Tobiason, PhD, PE, BCEE
Professor and Head
Civil and Environmental Engineering

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**Research Teams Led by Chul Park and Mariana Lopes Win Third Annual Manning/IALS Innovation Awards**

The University of Massachusetts Amherst's Institute for Applied Life Sciences (IALS) has announced that six campus research teams have been named recipients of the 3rd annual Manning/IALS Innovation Awards. [Read more](#)

**Sergio F. Breña receives STRIDE Faculty Fellowship**

Sergio F. Breña of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department was among the 24 STRIDE Faculty Fellows announced recently by Amel Ahmed, associate provost for equity and inclusion, as part of the 2021 STRIDE Faculty Fellowship Program. [Read more](#)
John Tobiason Receives Prestigious Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists
Professor John E. Tobiason, P.E., the head of the Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Department, has won the esteemed 2021 Gordon Maskew Fair Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES). Read more

Gerasimidis to Participate in National Academy of Engineering Symposium
As a recipient of the NSF Early Career Development (CAREER) Award, Assistant Professor Simos Gerasimidis has also been invited to participate in the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) 2021 EU-US Frontiers of Engineering Symposium. According to the NAE description, “Sixty of the most promising early career engineers from the United States and European Union will meet for an intensive two-and-one-half-day symposium to discuss cutting-edge developments.” Read more

Casey Brown Comments on Water Outages for Berkshire Eagle
Professor Casey Brown of the CEE department was quoted in an article for the Berkshire Eagle about frequent water outages in the Briggsville Water District in Clarksburg, Massachusetts. Brown said, “Water utilities face a trillion dollars of construction and replacement costs to maintain their systems. The little towns are just going to defer maintenance. And you’ll have systems like this that are..."
Richard Palmer Retires After Many Years of Outstanding Service
After more than 13 successful and productive years at the College of Engineering and the CEE department, Richard N. Palmer is retiring. Professor Palmer, who stepped down as head of the CEE department in September of 2019, has been serving as the university director of the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (NE CASC) since he led its founding in 2012.

College of Engineering Welcomes Zachary Westgate to CEE
This fall the College of Engineering welcomed three very talented new faculty members to its ranks: Zachary (Zack) Westgate of the CEE department as an associate professor; Robert (Bob) Niffenegger of the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) department as an assistant professor; and Stacyann Bailey of the Biomedical Engineering (BME) department as an assistant professor.

UMass Board of Trustees Awards Tenure to Gleason
Two College of Engineering faculty members were among the 25 from UMass Amherst awarded tenure at the June meeting of the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees. The two new tenured professors in the college are Colin J. Gleason of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and Jungwoo Lee of the Chemical Engineering Department and also an adjunct faculty member in the...
Kara Peterman Named to Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute Executive Committee
Assistant Professor Kara D. Peterman of the CEE department has been serving on the executive committee of the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI). The committee is responsible for developing and maintaining the technology transfer activities related to cold-formed steel design. Read more

PCI Honors Sergio Breña as Fellow
Professor Sergio F. Breña, CEE associate department head, was honored as a new Fellow by the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) at the organization's May 2021 convention. He has also received the 2019 PCI Distinguished Educator Award, the 2011 PCI Young Educator Award, is past chair of the PCI Student Education Committee, and currently serves as a voting member of the PCI Student Education Committee, PCI Design Handbook Committee, and the PCI Design Specification Committee. Read more

How Demographics Impact Who Is Most Vulnerable to Flooding
Assistant Professor Christian D. Guzman and graduate student Cielo Sharkus are spearheading a project that was awarded a $12,000 grant from the Institute of Diversity Sciences (IDS) to study the vulnerability of communities to...
flooding based on their various demographic characteristics. The goal of the IDS grant is to advance equity through multidisciplinary and socially impactful STEM research and to provide mentored research experience for students. Read more

David Reckhow Leads Team Testing for PFAS Contaminants in 84 Communities Statewide

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently awarded a grant for $1,072,791 to a group led by Research Professor David A. Reckhow of the CEE department to sample for a key form of contaminant—per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS—from approximately 1,600 public water systems and 3,500 private water wells in 84 selected communities across the state. Read more

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