

ENGINEERING MONTHLY NEWS

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Cherry McKenzie Passes Away

Cherry McKenzie (DES) died on February 3. McKenzie was employed in DES for 22 years. As the coordinator for purchasing for the last two years, she was responsible for purchasing relating to research grants for all departments in the College of Engineering. A contribution fund to benefit McKenzie's daughter, Kourtney, has been arranged. For more information, call 578-6068.

LSU Signs Agreement to Increase Foreign Exchange



Mehmet Tumay (Dean's Office & CEE) was instrumental in negotiations for the entire university to enter into agreements/memorandum of understanding for international exchange with the following universities: Federal University of Vicosa, Vicosa, Brazil; Technical University of Istanbul, Istanbul Turkey; Bogazici University, Istanbul Turkey; and Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta, N. Cyprus.

These agreements will provide for faculty exchange, student exchange, and joint projects which, it is envisaged, will be funded by both national and international agencies of participating institutions. The faculty exchange members may visit a sister university for up to one year, either as visiting professors or as research scholars, and will receive the same salary and benefits as from their home university. Both undergraduate and graduate students may participate in the exchange and may attend the host university for one year to continue their education. Exchange students will have the same rights and privileges as all visiting students at the host university.

The individual agreements/memorandum of understanding were duly signed by Chancellor Mark Emmert and the President and/or Rector of respective universities. The documents are available at the Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.

Editor: Tammy V. Abshire, Associate Director
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Presentations



James H. Gill Jr. (CM) recently presented guest lectures and a seminar on building ethics at Texas A&M. He also moderated a discussion panel of Texas A&M students and contractors from the Construction Industry Advisory Council. Over 500 people were in attendance at the lecture.

Emir Macari (CEE) has been selected to participate in the 2002 Frontiers of Engineering Symposium, a meeting held annually by the National Academy of Engineering. The participants gather at the Beckman Center in Irvine, California, to discuss cutting-edge research in all engineering fields and industries. Macari was invited to attend after a rigorous nomination and selection process. His research focuses on the mechanical behavior of granular materials.



Vijay P. Singh (CEE) presented a keynote paper on "Integrated Watershed Management for Mitigation of Flooding" at the International Conference of water-related disasters in Kolkata, India. Singh was the only keynote presenter outside of India.

Wanjun Wang (ME) and **Zhongjie Zhang** (ME) presented "Development of a New Type of Specific Gravity Sensor Based on Capacitive Principle for Soil Suspension Measurement Applications" in Chengdu, China, in August at the International Symposium on Test and Measurement (ISTM).

Patents



Wanjun Wang (ME) was granted a U.S. patent for "Electrostatic Micro Power Relay" and has received a \$41,784 research grant from LRTC for the project "Support Study for the Development of an Automated Device to Electronically Measure Fine Particle Sizes in Soil."

Kevin Kelly (ME) and **Jost S. Goertert** (CAMD) are co-inventors of the patent titled "Graphite Mask for X-Ray Lithography."

Awards/Honors



Su-Seng Pang (ME) received the 2002 BMW Award at the annual ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition in New Orleans. The award is sponsored by ASME International Board on Minorities and Women. Pang has participated in countless ASME activities and committees and encourages others to participate as well.



Marc Levitan (CEE and LSU Hurricane Center) has been appointed to the Technical Oversight Committee for the HAZUS Hurricane Model. The National Institute of Building Sciences has developed the state-of-the-art HAZUS model to calculate estimated loss. The HAZUS will be used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state and local planners.



Louay Mohammad (CEE & LRTC) was selected to receive the 2002 Award of Recognition from the Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists (AAPT). This award is given to individuals who serve the association by offering journal papers, discussions, and serving on committees. Mohammad will be presented with this award at the AAPT 2003 Annual Business and Technical Meeting on March 11, 2003, in Lexington, Kentucky.



Mehmet Tumay (CEE) received a \$10,000 REU supplement for his project "Inclined Piezocone Penetration Aspects—Theoretical Interpretation and Experimentation Verification" from the National Science Foundation, which increases his total award to \$192,312.



Kemin Zhou (ECE) has been inducted as a Fellow of the Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineering. IEEE Fellow is the highest honor bestowed upon members of the IEEE. Zhou was recognized with this prestigious award for his contributions to the robust control system theory and applications.