A perk from the Dean:

In April we find ourselves in the fury of the academic cycle’s conclusion. Spring always seems the busiest, with FDRs, evaluations, final curriculum committee actions, end of term exams, end year reports, final hiring efforts, grad student recruiting, graduation and more, to say nothing of paper and proposal deadlines, project reports to sponsors, students desperately wanting you to read and correct their final dissertations so they can be a May graduate. Clearly I picked an ideal semester to teach a required moderate-sized 300-level course!

However, amid this busy-ness, much is coming to fruition.

This month we may well hear final results from the President search and the CASE Dean search. We will also see more ribbon cuttings in the ConocoPhillips’ WESt Center space, the newly renovated AMS Ryan Sawyer’s Memorial Computer Lab, and soon thereafter the UCT Center Space in Berthoud will come online. Later this month we will also host the DOE Collegiate Wind Competition reception, along with our own CESS Faculty Recruitment Day on April 1 before we break for the semester. And at those events and others we can see the fruits of our labors, as our students show what they can do after four or more years at Mines under your able tutelage.

So, as we head into the academic year, please accept my thanks for your efforts. And, in anticipation of a great finish, please plan to join us at the CESS Faculty Recognition event on today, April 6 at the Atrium at 4PM.

Best wishes,
Kevin


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Dr. Terri Hogue (CEE) has been reelected as the Secretary of the AGU Hydrology Section for 2015-2016. “The Hydrology Section is one of eleven in the American Geophysical Union. Its members are concerned with the cycling of continental water (solid, liquid and vapor) at all scales, and with physical, chemical and biological processes driven by that cycling.”

Kevin Moore (CEE Dean and EECI) represented Mines at the White House in March at a White House event hosted by the U.S. Military's Center for Excellence in Military Education for engineers to meet Grand Challenges.

It was announced the Tracy Camp (EE) will be the next Mines Faculty Senate Distinguished Lecturer. Congratulations, Tracy. We all look forward to it!

Paul Constantine (AMS) has published a book titled, Active Subspaces: Emerging Ideas for Dimension Reduction in Parameter Studies. It is available on Amazon.com and at http://books.google.com/id/0139. Learn more at its website, active-subspaces.org.

High demand for the 5th edition (2014) of the finite element text co-authored by Vaughan Griffiths (CEE), Programming the Finite Element Method, has led to a reprint in January 2015.

Mike Nicholas (AMS) was recognized this month for his distinguished Faculty Membership at Mines. Mike has been an invaluable mentor and support for the students involved in the various honor societies: Order of Omega, Blue Key, and Tau Beta Pi. Thank you, Mike, for your dedication to educating the students at Mines, especially in the introduction to Scientific Computing.

Bryan Conley, CEE PhD candidate and student of Tzulf Cah, received the 2015 W. Wesley Churchfield Graduate Research Award by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. The award recognizes a student whose research contributes to the knowledge pool of wastewater management.

Carson Kent, AMS senior advisor and alumna Amanda Herring and Paul Constantine, received the 2015 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship for his research proposal on Quantum Error Correction in the field of Computational and Mathematical Engineering.

Kimberly Slimis, CEE PhD candidate, and student of John McCray and Terri Hogue, received the 2015 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship for her proposal “Anthropogenic and Natural Impacts on Water Availability in Asia.”

Ashley Bucsek, ME PhD candidate and student of Aaron Stebner, also received the 2015 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship for her proposal “Quantifying the Multiscale Mechanics of Phase Transformation, Twinning, and Stacking Fault Energy Diffraction Microscopy.”

The NSF awards these fellowships based on the students’ intellectual merit and their potential to provide a broader impact.

The following students will be representing Mines in the Concrete Canoe competition at ASCE Regional Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico this month: Dina Vakili, Brett Mahon, Heather Megarity, Laura Brewer, Rachel Steenson, Rachel Nagel, Broc Patterson. Representing Mines on the “Trossusworthy Steel” team in the Steel Bridge competition are Nikhil El-Ludtide, Max Ransom, Loni Scherbenske, Mark Lundstrum and Travis White. The ASCE advisor is Jeff Hoolihan (CEE).

Be sure to wish them luck in Albuquerque.

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Humanitarian Engineering Program and Engineers Without Borders/Bridges to Prosperity are presenting the US premier showing of "The Humanitarian Engineer" a documentary film by Sheena Ong – Thursday, April 23rd, 6 pm, more details to follow at: humanitarian.mines.edu

Robotics Business Review published an article on Mines robotics research, quoting John McCray (ME), Qi Han (EECS), Ozkan Celik (ME), and Xiaoli Zhang (ME). You can read it in full at fullarticle.pdf

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Douglas Van Bossuyt (ME) won the National Regulatory Commission Early Faculty Development Award. Douglas won this in collaboration with Cory Ahrens (AMS) to help push forward CM’s Nuclear Science and Engineering program.

The Humanitarian Engineer (solid, liquid and vapor) at all scales, and with physical, chemical and biological processes driven by that cycling.”

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Be sure to wish them luck in Albuquerque.
Blasterbotica is comprised of students in the fields of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and computer science. The team’s faculty advisors include Christopher Dreyer (ME) and Ozkan Celik (ME). Their client is Angel Abbud Madrid, director of the Center for Space Resources at Mines.


Congratulations to CECE UC&T PhD students Simon Prassetyo, Kevin Schaeffer and Yuanli Wu for receiving prestigious Underground Construction Association scholarship. Each student received a $5000 scholarship plus the full cost of attendance at this summer’s Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference in New Orleans. Please congratulate them when you see them!

Michelle Deem, ME graduate student, won the Best Poster Award at the Annual Meeting of the Gait and Clinical Movement Analysis Society in Portland, OR. Anne Silverman and Tony Petrella are co-authors on this work.


CMAPP: Computing Mines Affiliates Partnership Program was a great success on April 2nd. Due to company support, CMAPP was able to award 16 scholarships to students in January. The event, organized by Tracy Camp (EECS), included a poster competition for all current students doing computing research to showcase their work, and a ceremony to thank the companies involved and honor the scholarship students.

CECS welcomes Lisa Elson as the new Program Administrator for the AMS Department. She joins us from the US Olympic Committee where she most recently was coordinator of the Paralympic Games in the International Games Division. Lisa can be reached at lelson@mines.edu

Fiscal News

- Some HR forms are being submitted months after an employee has begun work. This is not acceptable. It is not fair to employees to work without the benefit of getting paid and it also causes problems with PERA. PERA charges penalties when an employee is back paid. The controller’s office may begin to pass these penalties on to the originating area. Please do not allow any employee (student, research or otherwise) to work without the proper paperwork in place.
- New Travel and Financial policies are in effect. There are changes in upgrade requirements for airfare, when TAs and TEs are required for in-state travel and other changes. Please see the policy for specifics: Travel and Financial Policies
- ORA has a new proposal analyst on staff, so some departments were reassigned. AMS and EECS now should work with Enmar Hilu, (303) 384-2626, ehilu@mines.edu. All other CECS departments remain unchanged.
- FAQs regarding the new Uniform Guidance will be posted on ORA’s website very soon.
- The timeline for submitting technical reports on federal grants is 90 days. ORA has had many delinquent reports. Please be aware that funding is being held until the reports are received.

A pdf version of the current and previous newsletters can be found at http://cecs.mines.edu/CECS-News

We will soon be moving to a more visual twice-monthly newsletter. Deadlines for announcements will be the 1st and 15th of each month. If you have information you would like in next edition of the CECS newsletter, please send it to Deirdre at dkeating@mines, or your department’s Program Assistant.