Academics and Partnerships

• The department was accredited by ABET in 2003; the next ABET visit will be in 2009.
• A Civil Engineering Advisory Committee (CEAC) formed in 2001. The current committee has 20 members including 17 alumni to assist the department in keeping a state-of-the-art curriculum that can support industry needs. Visit http://civil.fit.edu/ceac_members.html for a member list or follow the CEAC menu links to read our mission and goals.
• A Construction Engineering Advisory Board (CIAB) formed in 2001, consisting of more than 25 local and international construction companies. More information and a member list is available at http://civil.fit.edu/ciab.html.

ASCE Student Chapter

The ASCE students continue to do well as many of you know. Alumni interested in our student chapter activities receive numerous progress reports from Dr. Paul Cosentino. Those of you who have not received these reports but are curious can visit the Web site for more information: http://civil.fit.edu/newasce.html.

Alumni Affairs

Sixteen Orlando area alumni recently gathered at a local pub to get reacquainted and exchange Florida Tech stories. Representatives from the graduating classes of 1984 (Jean Abi-Aoun) through 2005 (Michelle Madlener) were present along with their spouses. Dr. and Mrs. Ashok Pandit also attended.

After a few drinks, there was free bashing of Dr. Pandit’s grading system and his demanding nature (especially from his ex-graduate students). Many stories were exchanged, and Dr. Pandit listened cheerfully (thanks to a glass of wine).

It was a very fun-filled evening, and alumni in other areas are strongly encouraged to have similar get-togethers (perhaps minus the Dr. Pandit bashing).

Endowments and Scholarships

The department has recently started two endowments and one scholarship:

1) The M.H. Williams Construction, Eric Primavera Memorial, ASCE Student Chapter Endowment helps offset costs related to the ASCE Student Chapter and provides scholarships to deserving students. This endowment was created in 2000 by Dr. Paul Cosentino from contributions received by Mr. Williams, civil engineering alumni (many of you have contributed to this), civil engineering faculty and matching monies from the F.W. Olin Foundation. The fund currently totals $115,440.
   http://civil.fit.edu/endowment.html

2) The CIAB endowment provides monies for CIAB-related expenditures with plans to fund future scholarships. The CIAB endowment was started in 2004 from contributions received from CIAB members and matching monies from the F.W. Olin Foundation. The current amount is $123,800.
   http://civil.fit.edu/ciab_endowment.html

3) CEFRA Scholarships: The CEFRA (Civil Engineering Freshmen Research Awards) scholarships were started in January 2005 for outstanding freshmen who are interested in conducting research. This scholarship also began through monies received from civil engineering alumni. The current balance is $1,400.
   http://civil.fit.edu/CEFRA.htm

The department annually receives 5% of the endowment amount for expenditures.
**Faculty Awards**

Dr. Edward Kalajian, right, receives his plaque from Herb Raybourn.

**Dr. Edward Kalajian** received the first CEAC Outstanding Service Award during the 2005 annual CEAC meeting. The plaque was presented by Herb Raybourn, chair of the CEAC. Dr. Kalajian was recognized for his years of dedicated service and commitment to the department.

Dr. Paul Cosentino was voted the January Most Valuable Panther for his excellent teaching and research capabilities and his service to the students through the ASCE Student Chapter.

**New Faculty and Staff**

**Professor Ralph Locurcio** (www.fit.edu/faculty/profiles/profile.html?value=261) joined the civil engineering department in Fall 2004. Professor Locurcio has outstanding credentials and his courses are already a big hit with the students.

Christel Noyes joined the department as the office coordinator in July 2005. Her e-mail address is cnoyes@fit.edu.

**Symposium on Disaster Recovery Construction**

**Professor Ralph Locurcio** coordinated a one-day symposium bringing together more than 85 practicing engineers and contractors to hear from experts in the fields of disaster reconstruction, planning, contracting and mitigation. The symposium, “Disaster Recovery Construction: Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery Construction Operations,” was sponsored by Florida Tech’s Construction Industry Advisory Board (CIAB). The symposium sought to prepare construction industry professionals for the uncertainties of the 2005 hurricane season. Professor Locurcio plans to hold additional symposiums on topics related to the construction industry.

**Outreach Program**

An outreach program designed to recruit outstanding local students to the field of civil engineering began in 2001 under the leadership of **Dr. Howell Heck**. As part of this outreach effort, Dr. Heck frequently speaks at area schools. Two of the programs most exciting features are:

1. **Camp Dream Builders**: This summer camp is designed to introduce local students to the areas of construction management and civil engineering. The program, started in 2003, originally worked with seventh through ninth graders but expanded to included high school students in 2004. This year, more than 40 students attended camp. Learn more about Camp Dream Builders at: http://civil.fit.edu/summercamp/index.html

2. **Science Fair Awards**: The civil engineering department recognized and rewarded 17 middle and high school students in local science and engineering fairs. These fairs displayed more than 500 projects. Civil engineering-related projects from the fields of biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computers, earth and space sciences, engineering, environmental science, mathematics, microbiology, physics, and team competitions were judged for selection purposes. The winning students in the senior division received a cash award of $150, a full scholarship to Camp Dream Builders, worth $250, and a certificate. The winning students in the junior division received a cash award of $75, a full scholarship to Camp Dream Builders, worth $125, and a certificate. Awards were also given to second and third place winners.

**Student Affairs**

Here are some noteworthy items:

- Twenty-three freshmen and six transfer students will join the department in Fall 2005. We now have more than 100 undergraduate students and 25 graduate students.
- In academic year 2004-05, 17 students graduated, and all secured jobs or enrolled in graduate school.
- More than 75% of our students have a job before they graduate, and nearly 100% find jobs within two months after graduation.
- Nearly 80% of our students have internship experience prior to graduation.
- Since 2001, 95% of graduates say they would recommend the department to others. We want to see 100% satisfaction, and we will do everything possible to get there!

Several civil engineering students earned scholarships from a host of sources in 2005.

- **Yeniree Chin Fong**, **Jeremy Crowe** and **Kolby Maddox** received the inaugural CEFRA awards (pictured right). They were selected because of high grade point averages and their interest in research.
- **Jenna Landis** received an internship sponsored by Florida Rock Industries, an engineering firm based in Jacksonville, Fla.
- **Lennon Shade** received a PBS&J/Primavera scholarship.
- **Nick Hansen** received the 2005 Florida Engineering Society Eric Primavera Foundation Scholarship.
- Also, Shade, Maddox, **Joe Morrissey** and **Gwen Tullar** earned the ASCE/M.H. Williams Endowment scholarship.

**Research**

All faculty continue to be involved in research. Despite our small size, the department’s current research funding totals more than $1 million, with nearly $500,000 in new contracts. The research helps support both graduate and undergraduate students. View more details about our recent research interests at: http://civil.fit.edu/research.html