In July 2003 the first National Center for Pavement Preservation (NCPP) was established at MSU with support from the Foundation for Pavement Preservation (FP®), the Federal Highway Administration, and the university. This center presents unique opportunities to influence how the nation's roads and highways are financed and maintained. Before the NCPP's establishment, there was no single national organization promoting pavement preservation. The center's purpose is to advance and improve pavement preservation practices through education, research management, outreach, and technical hands-on assistance.

Today, we are more aware of the need to shift from infrastructure construction to preservation. With this change will come new and improved preservation treatments, each uniquely addressing various stages of pavement degradation under specific uses and climates. Application of appropriate treatments—before pavements suffer irreversible structural damage—can prolong good pavement performance and double or triple useful life. Similarly, pavement preservation dollars can be recouped six- to tenfold because expensive reconstruction can be postponed or eliminated.

Effecting the necessary changes will take time and education. Highway owners and contractors will need to change how they have traditionally done business; a paradigm shift will be needed to change to a cycle of construct, maintain while still in good condition, and reconstruct. Highway engineers and technicians will need to learn new techniques and when and how to apply them.

The NCPP is prepared to play a major role with its experienced staff ready to help clients such as state DOTs, counties, cities, or corporations that build and operate road networks. Help could range from simply demonstrating to clients how and when to apply various treatments, to providing them with long-term maintenance strategies fitted to their particular networks. The NCPP is also ready to manage research for groups of clients, and provide short courses (one- to two-day sessions) in maintenance methods.
Faculty, Staff Honored at Engineering Awards Luncheon

Thomas L. Maleck, associate professor, and Linda L. Steinman, administrative assistant, were recognized at the college’s Fourteenth Annual Engineering Awards Luncheon on April 1.

Maleck received a Withrow Teaching Excellence Award. Each year, one faculty member from every department within the college is selected to receive the award based on criteria that include ability to elicit enthusiastic learning, availability to students, and effective advising and mentoring. Students describe Maleck as “an excellent instructor who cares about his students” and someone who “prepares them to the fullest for engineering after graduation.” He is praised for his extensive knowledge in highway design and his passion for the study abroad program in Volgograd, Russia, which has become one of the largest at MSU. Maleck also received the 2004 MSU Award for Outstanding Service to Study Abroad at MSU’s international awards ceremony on March 29.

Steinman received a Gloria Stragier Award for Dedicated and Creative Service. Initiated in 1996, the award is presented annually to up to two non-academic staff members who have worked in the college a minimum of five years. Qualifying criteria include exceptional and creative job performance, a cordial and supportive attitude, and respect of co-workers.

Steinman began as a part-time employee in the CEE department in 1989 and today is the office supervisor. She is respected and appreciated by faculty, staff, students, and alumni. She delivers accurate results quickly, no one leaves her office dissatisfied. Says one co-worker: “Linda provides a spirit of unselfish service that makes one want to come to work in the morning.”

MSU Distinguished Alumni Award

Paul Woodruff (BS ’59, MS ’61), of Malvern, Pennsylvania, received an MSU Distinguished Alumni Award on October 2, 2003, from the MSU Alumni Association for attaining the highest level of professional accomplishment, having high standards of integrity and character, and demonstrating continuing outstanding voluntary service. Woodruff, now retired, was the president of an environmental services consulting firm from 1971 until 1977, when he founded Environmental Resources Management (ERM). Over the course of two decades, he turned ERM into a global leader with 2,400 employees in 35 countries with $300 million in annual revenue. He has remained active by serving on nonprofit boards in human health and welfare, and education.

CEE Annual Alumni Dinner and Retirement Celebration

The annual Alumni Dinner will be Thursday, May 13, 2004, at MSU’s Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Red Cedar Rooms A & B. The event will include a celebration of the accomplishments of Professor William C. Taylor, who is retiring this year after 30 years at MSU.

Cost of the dinner is $30 per person; to reserve seats, contact Laura Taylor by May 4 at (517) 355-5107 or taylorl@egr.msu.edu. Checks made payable to “CEE Department” can be sent to Laura Taylor at the CEE department office.

CEE Faculty Establish Two Endowments

Longtime CEE faculty Mackenzie Davis and Thomas Maleck helped establish new endowments in 2003. Endowments are perpetual gifts, in that only a portion of the annually earned interest is spent while the remainder reverts to principal. Endowments can be created to support a variety of endeavors, including endowed chairs and professorships, graduate fellowships, undergraduate scholarships, study abroad programs, research and teaching excellence, and endowed excellence/opportunity funds that enable the department to direct resources to areas of greatest need or promise.

Spearheaded by Mack Davis, the Mackenzie L. Davis Student Activity Discretionary Endowment Fund supplies resources to CEE student groups. Many alumni, faculty, staff, and students contributed to help establish this endowment. Mack, who was a CEE faculty member for 30 years and retired in June 2003, views the endowment as providing a “safety net” that will help fund student groups that have been successful in the past. Of these groups, Mack has served as faculty adviser for the ASCE student chapter, the Environmental Engineering Student Society, the
New Members of Department’s Professional Advisory Board Selected

Salvatore Castronovo and Fred Coleman III have been selected to serve on the Professional Advisory Board for 2003-04.

Salvatore Castronovo (MS ’70, PhD ’97) is currently responsible for marketing and project management for select projects at Consor Townsend Envirodyne Engineers, Inc. (CTE), Lansing, Michigan. He has spent more than 30 years with state transportation agencies and served as project director for several projects including the Detroit People Mover.

Fred Coleman III (BS ’76, MS ’78, PhD ’94) is a principal consultant for Coleman and Associates and also a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Business Administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additionally, he has served as the chair of technical subcommittees of the Transportation Research Board and the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Both Coleman and Castronovo have contributed to the field through various publications and presentations.

New Faculty

Professor François Dion, who received his B.Eng in 1992 and M.A.Sc in 1994 from the Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal, and his Ph.D. in 1999 from the University of Waterloo, joined the department as an assistant professor in fall 2003. Since joining MSU, Dion has continued to pursue research in the development of intelligent transportation systems (ITS). Prior to this appointment, he worked for more than four years as a research scientist with the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and as a lecturer for the Department of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech. While in Virginia, Dion conducted research linked to the development of ITS and the operation of urban transportation systems. His interest in traffic simulation models also led him to conduct research on network traffic flow modeling, modeling of driver behavior and vehicle performance, modeling of vehicle fuel consumption and emissions, and traffic flow theory. He is currently researching applications of emerging communication technologies in the development of new ITS applications and decision control problems linked with the simultaneous real-time operation of ITS applications.

The Thomas L. and Ellen E. Maleck Endowed Excellence Fund in Civil Engineering provides discretionary resources to the department. Tom is currently an associate professor in CEE, the university traffic engineer, and co-director of the Russia Study Abroad Program in Volgograd; Ellen is a retired Ovid-Elsie area school principal. They see their financial commitment as a way to show their “deep appreciation for what MSU has done for them.” Ellen and Tom chose to make their commitment now, rather than wait until they could “truly afford to give.” The endowment aims to enrich engineering students’ experiences through co-curricular activities like the steel bridge and concrete canoe teams and other successful programs such as study abroad.

Both endowments offer continued support to students in the department and are an example of how those who have benefited from an MSU education can give back.

Neeraj Buch Honored at MSU Awards Convocation

Neeraj J. Buch, associate professor, is the recipient of an MSU Alumni Club of Mid-Michigan Quality in Undergraduate Teaching Award. He received the award at the MSU Awards Convocation on February 10, 2004, in recognition of outstanding undergraduate teaching.

Students praise him for the effectiveness and relevance of his courses and for his eagerness to help every student. Buch introduces effective new techniques in his courses and continues to explore innovations in instruction to help guide students to become active and self-directed learners. He is also an adviser to the ASCE student chapter and the concrete canoe team.

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Pledge of support for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

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Thank you for your financial support!

Alumni Notes

Dan Fredendall (BS ’77) was selected as the Outstanding Civil Engineer of the Year by the Southeastern Branch of ASCE in 2003. Dan is executive VP and Chairman of the Board at Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment Consulting Engineers, Livonia, Michigan.

Irene Mead (BS ’75) joined the Lansing, Michigan, office of the law firm Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in 2003.

Joellen Thompson (BS ’79) was named Engineer of the Year by MSPE in 2003, and is the first woman to receive this distinction. She is the assistant water system manager for the city of Grand Rapids.

James Wight (BS ’69, MS ’70), professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Michigan, received the Structural Research Award presented by the American Concrete Institute in 2003.