Microbiology Adds New Dimension to Environmental Water Research

It was a career fair in high school that piqued CEE assistant professor Alison Cupples’ interest in a career working on environmental issues. Originally from Northern Ireland, Cupples did her undergraduate work in England and participated in a study abroad program at the University of Illinois. The program involved a research project in a lab and that’s what got her interested in laboratory research. “My interest was always about environmental water issues, but research that also included microbiology was fascinating to me,” says Cupples.

Today she is working on projects funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and SERDP—a U.S. interagency organization involving the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy. This fall she will be a Lilly Teaching Fellow. She came to MSU in January 2006 after completing a PhD in environmental engineering and science at Stanford University and postdoc work at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. Her research focuses on the degradation of contaminants in soil systems and groundwater using molecular methods to identify key organisms responsible for transforming the contaminants.

One major area of her research is using the novel molecular method called stable isotope probing. One example of this is a research project, funded by NSF, to determine the...
After 27 years I am leaving to become dean of the Tagliatela College of Engineering at the University of New Haven (UNH) in Connecticut. After serving as department chair for 16 years at MSU, I have been looking for a different challenge and adventure. I am moving from a large, public, research-oriented university to a small, private, teaching-focused university. UNH takes pride in providing outstanding experiential education to its students, is poised to grow its engineering college, and is looking for strong leadership. I feel I can have a significant impact there at this important juncture. As a bonus, the location of UNH appeals to me because of the "cultured civilization" that New Haven and neighboring New York City offer, and its proximity to the beach!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my career at MSU and feel like the CEE department is "my baby" that has grown up to become an energetic teenager ready to "rock 'n roll." Its future is bright. Research activities are growing, faculty are becoming internationally renowned for their work, graduate students are being placed at strong companies and as faculty members at reputed universities, and undergraduate students are thriving in a fiercely competitive and constricted marketplace. These are all benchmarks of a vibrant department.

I'm proud of the accomplishments of the faculty, students, and staff, and will miss them dearly, like a parent sending his teenager to college! Professor Neeraj Buch has been selected to serve as the interim chairperson. I am confident that he will continue to nurture the department, and I wish him and everyone in the department success.

I will also fondly remember the many alumni and friends of the MSU CEE department. The support and friendship that they have provided to the department has been critical for the building of facilities and programs over the last 16 years. I'm sure our paths will cross now and then as we age together.

I say goodbye with mixed feelings. I am sad about leaving a supportive institution that has nurtured me as I built my career, and excited about the new challenges and new beginning in New England. Until we meet again…

Alumni Award (continued from page 1)

In 1994, Tibbits was appointed as Bay Region Engineer in Saginaw. In this position, he managed the operations of the region and initiated partnerships with Master Gardeners and other gardening organizations to beautify rest areas in Michigan with flowering landscapes. He also was instrumental in establishing MDOT’s 26 Transportation Service Centers around the state, which moved staff to within an hour of all Michigan residents.

Tibbits served on many national and international committees, most dealing with the reduction of fatalities and serious injuries on our highway system. He represented Michigan as chief engineer for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO); chaired the AASHTO Safety Management Subcommittee with representatives from all 50 states; represented AASHTO on the Transportation Association of Canada’s Chief Engineers’ Council; and more recently served on two safety committees of the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses. He served on MSU’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board and MSU’s Department of Horticulture Advisory Board as well as Wayne State University’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board.

Tibbits received the 2005 AASHTO President’s Award for Highway Traffic Safety, the 2007 Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Commission Safety Leadership Award, and the 2008 American Traffic Safety Services Association’s National Safety Award. In June 2009 MDOT announced the dedication of a Bay City rest area in honor of Tibbits.

The rest area, located on southbound I-75 near mile marker 158, is known for its attractive flower beds. MDOT dedicates Michigan rest areas in honor of retired MDOT employees who have made a significant contribution to transportation in the state.

He and his wife, Rita, live in Merrill, Mich. They have three children—Jennifer, Rick, and Daniel. Jennifer graduated from MSU with BS and MS degrees in accounting and finance. Tibbits has been a 4-H judge of children’s flower and vegetable gardens for many years and is active in his local church where he serves as a deacon. He enjoys fishing, golf, and time with his three grandchildren—Shiana (10), Kyle (8), and Paige (6).

Larry Tibbits (far right) celebrated his award with family. From left to right: Tim Clark, son-in-law; Jennifer Clark, daughter; and Rita, his wife.
Microbiology Adds New Dimension (continued from page 1)

microorganisms involved in the biodegradation of key contaminants (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene or BTEX) associated with leaking gasoline tanks.

“This is a problem because of the human health effects following exposure to these chemicals. For example, benzene is a known human carcinogen,” says Cupples. “Natural attenuation can be used to remediate these sites. However, the effectiveness of this method is often dependent on the microorganisms present.” So the aim of the project was to identify which microorganisms are responsible for BTEX degradation in soils and sediments. The research found that both novel and previously identified microorganisms have been linked to aerobic and anaerobic BTEX degradation in a range of samples.

SERDP is an organization that funds projects to identify, develop, and transition environmental technologies that relate directly to defense missions. Cupples has worked on a project with SERDP funding involving the development of biomarkers for RDX biodegradation potential. RDX, or Research Department Explosive, is an explosive nitroamine widely used in military and industrial applications.

“Military sites have a legacy of groundwater and soil contamination with explosives, such as RDX,” said Cupples. “The U.S. Army is interested in using bioremediation to clean up these areas.” The original project was exploratory in nature, but Cupples has applied for additional funding to do further research.

As with most researchers at MSU, Cupples collaborates with other faculty members across interdisciplinary areas. A current project funded by the USDA involves the bioaccumulation of antimicrobials by vegetables and fruits and the potential and relevance to human health and environmental fate. Cupples is the co-PI with Dawn Reinhold, assistant professor in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering and Hui Li, assistant professor in the Department of Crop and Soil sciences.

“Triclocarban (TCC) and triclosan (TCS) are antimicrobials added to a variety of household products, like hand soap,” says Cupples. “When domestic waste water is treated both chemicals accumulate in the biosolids and are then released into the environment when the biosolids are applied to farm land, which is often the case in Michigan. This release is of concern because of the potential of TCC to act as an endocrine disrupting compound, the formation of toxic degradation products, and the development of microbial resistance.”

So far, the researchers found that in soils, TCC is present at higher concentrations and is more resistant to biodegradation compared to TCS. After 100 days, significant residuals of both TCC and TCS occurred in soils.

This fall Cupples will join MSU’s prestigious Lilly Teaching Fellowship Program and will use the opportunity to further integrate teaching and research in a large undergraduate class (CE 280 – Principles of Environmental Engineering and Science). The Lilly Teaching Fellowship Program is highly competitive with only seven faculty members selected each year.

The program, now in its 19th year, focuses on teaching and learning practices and has a reputation for mentoring faculty and grooming them for leadership roles. The program includes a scholarship for a teaching and learning project, interaction with a Lilly mentor, off-campus retreats, discussion groups, and seminars. Cupples will design several active learning activities around soil and ground water contamination as well as remediation approaches.

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She also has volunteered for numerous K-12 summer outreach teaching activities over the past five years—an activity that she wants to continue. “I believe mentoring and encouraging K-12 students to enter STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields is a vital role for all professors,” says Cupples. Her efforts have involved presentations on environmental engineering, laboratory hands-on sessions, tours of research facilities, and facilitating mentoring activities with graduate students.

She also volunteers for other collaborative outreach activities with Drew Kim, assistant to the dean for Recruitment and K-12 Outreach, and Judy Cordes, coordinator of Women in Engineering.

All of these activities are helping to fulfill and expand Cupples’ vision of a career in environmental water research. “The use of molecular methods has significantly increased our understanding of the biodegradation and fate of many water and soil contaminants. However, we still have much to learn, especially when it comes to emerging contaminants. I’m looking forward to continuing to explore these areas in the future.”

— Jane L. DePriest
Faculty and Staff Connections
College of Engineering Awards

Three members of the CEE department were honored with awards at the college’s annual awards luncheon in March.

Associate professor Rigoberto Burgueño received a Withrow Teaching Excellence Award. Burgueño is a passionate teacher who sets very high standards, demanding and getting a lot from the students in his class while garnering their respect. A professor in the structures area, his primary interaction in the classroom with undergraduates is through CE 400 (Structural Mechanics), which is generally conceded to be the most rigorous undergraduate class in the structures area and one of the most formidable in the undergraduate program.

Notwithstanding this reputation, numerous veterans of this course have made the case that Burgueño is among the department’s finest teachers. Their comments include: “I have learned more in his one class than any other I have had.” “I hope that . . . more students will ignore the reputation [for difficulty] and take advantage of an opportunity to learn from such a motivated, gifted educator.” “He’s a professor who is passionate and has a drive to make every student understand.” The words of one of his students perhaps sum it up best: “[He] works hard and expects a lot. I like that.” Burgueño is a second-time recipient of this award.

Siavosh Ravanbakhsh, research assistant II, was honored with the Gloria Stragier Award for Dedicated and Creative Service. Ravanbakhsh has established himself as a highly regarded member of the CEE department during his 23-plus years of service in various roles. He has served as a research assistant, a lab manager for research and teaching laboratories, a manager and supervisor for computer resources for the CEE department, and for the last seven years as a research assistant and lab manager at the Civil Infrastructure Laboratory (CIL).

During the construction of the CIL, and later the Structural Fire Testing Facility, he was the “go to” person for contractors, architects, and MSU Physical Plant personnel. He ensured that the construction outcome met the research needs of the faculty who were to use the facility. In his current position, Ravanbakhsh plays an integral role in managing the day-to-day activities at the CIL. He keeps the equipment in working order and knows exactly who to call when a timely repair or replacement is needed. His dedication and creative effort to maximize the capabilities of the laboratory are never ending. As needs change, he learns new tasks so that he can be responsive to faculty and students. Whether it is a simple lighting or ventilation issue, or something more significant like moving and handling the large bridge beams, he finds ways to make the jobs easier, more efficient, and less costly.

He is dedicated to making the lab a safe working environment where faculty and students can conduct their research. And, while ensuring smooth and safe operation of the laboratory, Ravanbakhsh’s positive demeanor and supportive attitude foster a laboratory environment that is friendly, enjoyable, and conducive to research. He does his best to make sure that those around him reach their potential and he is always and immediately willing to help. “He never loses his temper, is always cordial, is utterly committed to get the task at hand done, and is humble,” says one faculty member.

“He exudes a quiet confidence about everything he does.” Another faculty member notes, “Many experiments are time-critical and require that they be conducted continuously late into the day. As the main technician in charge of controlling dangerous loading equipment such as high-pressure hydraulics, fire furnaces, and overhead cranes, Sia is there until the very end without ever showing the slightest sign of disapproval or tiredness until the lights of the lab are turned off.”

Graduate students also have high praise and respect for him. A current PhD student describes Ravanbakhsh as “a manager, an experimentalist, an architect, and an engineer all rolled into one.” The student adds, “He has shown a contagious exuberance for solving problems . . .” A recent PhD graduate had this to say: “The more difficult a test procedure or test requirements, the more intrigued and creative Sia becomes. When unique instrumentation or parts are needed, Sia researches the options and discusses the pros and cons of each option with students and professors to find the best solution.” He continues, “Sia’s dedication, help, and support as the laboratory manager for the Civil Infrastructure Laboratory was paramount to the timely and successful completion of my research.” It is very telling that many alumni keep in touch with him and make a point to visit him if they have an opportunity to return to campus.

Due to his leadership and initiative, the CIL continues to expand and improve its capabilities. One faculty member notes: “Sia does it all; without him I, and the approximately 6 faculty, 20 graduate students, and 6 undergraduate students who are conducting work at the CIL on an everyday basis, would be in trouble.” Many people can learn by observing Sia’s work ethic, effectiveness, demeanor, dependability, and loyalty. All of these elements, together with his dedicated and creative service have, without a doubt, made him a role model for his peer.

Professor Ronald S. Harichandran was honored with a Withrow Exceptional Service Award, which recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional institutional, public, and community service.

Harichandran is described as an exceptionally influential mentor and administrator, and a visionary engineer. Over the last 16 years as chairperson of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Harichandran has provided exceptional institutional service as well as strong professional service. Through a hands-on approach in every aspect of the department’s mission, and through his involvement at the national level, he has elevated the visibility of the department.
His approach to department leadership has been selfless in the vein of a servant-leader, always putting the interests of the faculty, staff, and students above his own. Harichandran has played a strong role in identifying signature research areas for the department, assisted in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty members, and tirelessly worked to establish laboratory facilities in support of research.

Construction of the Civil Infrastructure Laboratory and the Structural Fire Testing Facility were crowning accomplishments in laboratory development. He worked closely with faculty to strengthen academic programs. He orchestrated the development of study abroad programs, a technical communication program, freshman and senior design courses, and an environmental engineering BS program.

Under his stewardship, the civil engineering program has been successfully accredited by ABET three times. Harichandran established the National Center for Pavement Preservation, a university-industry-government partnership, which contributes to the department’s stature. He helped develop a formal faculty mentoring program in the department.

Harichandran’s service at the national and regional levels include leading the civil engineering department heads, contributing to the development of the civil engineering “Body of Knowledge” document (which determines the baseline of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that every civil engineer of the future needs to attain; it is used to design curricula today at universities in the U.S. and abroad), and establishing the Michigan Transportation Research Board.

Chi Epsilon Excellence in Teaching Award
Professor Rick Lyles is the recipient of the 2011 James M. Robbins Excellence in Teaching Award, a national award from Chi Epsilon, the civil engineering honor society. This award is named in honor of professor James M. Robbins, who was an outstanding teacher at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and an academic leader in civil engineering education.

Lyles’ ability to engage students in a meaningful, interactive classroom environment allows students to thrive in their pursuit of advanced education. Besides developing knowledge regarding the class material, his teaching style allows students to develop “real world” skills such as effective communication and organization. Some of the comments made by his students include: “the best teacher in my life,” “I will never forget Dr. Lyles’ positive impact on my education,” and “Dr. Lyles taught me how to be a practical engineer.”

Lyles’ commitment to the civil engineering curriculum at Michigan State University also was cited in his nomination for the award. Last year, he took the lead in the preparation of all the documents for the ABET visitation. More recently, he has been appointed to the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.

ESD Alpha Award
Associate professor Milind V. Khire has been named a recipient of the 2011 prestigious Alpha Award, presented by the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD), for his invention of recycled material blankets for sustainable biogas recovery and leachate management at landfills.

The ESD Alpha Awards for Innovation in Engineering and Technology recognize and celebrate the creative and original ideas of men and women in the engineering and technology professions who develop innovative solutions to benefit the needs of the general public, business, or academia. The ESD Alpha Awards foster cooperation among and between organizations in the scientific, technical, and commercial sectors that create significant economic, cultural, environmental, academic, and intellectual benefits to the communities served by ESD member companies.

The recipients of the award were recognized at the Society’s 37th Annual Awards Dinner on June 23 at the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel. The project also is being featured in an upcoming issue of Technology Century magazine.

Khire has worked as a consultant for landfills for many years and he has observed the design and operational problems associated with existing methods that are used to re-inject leachate or liquids in municipal solid waste landfills and to collect biogas produced in landfills. “Waste is highly heterogeneous and it changes physically and chemically within a landfill due to settlement and degradation,” says Khire. “The lack of market for reuse of recycled glass and shredded tires added to my motivation to plan and design a technology that encourages the use of such abundantly available low-cost materials.”

In addition, the heightened awareness and need to manage greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and convert biogas to energy all added up to conceive, plan, and test the innovation. In order to put this innovation to the test, Waste Management, Inc. (a private sector firm) provided access to their landfills in Michigan and Minnesota, and the Environmental Research and Education Foundation (a nonprofit organization) and the National Science Foundation provided funding.

From left: Rick Lyles receives his award from CEE professor and Chi Epsilon faculty adviser Gilbert Baladi; Chi Epsilon president and CEE student Christopher Dean; and Thomas F. Wolff, Chi Epsilon Great Lakes District Councillor and National Marshal and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies.

As a Michigan State University Chi Epsilon chapter honor member, Lyles continues to pledge his support for Chi Epsilon through attendance at initiation events and fundraising activities.
Alumni Connections

General Palmer Award

Sandra Woods (BS ’76), dean of the College of Engineering at Colorado State University, received the 2011 General Palmer Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado on January 24 for her significant contributions to Colorado engineering.

Woods is one of about 40 female deans in engineering colleges across the country. She joined Colorado State in 2001 as a professor and department head of civil engineering. She also has served as interim vice provost for special projects and interim vice provost for faculty affairs. She served as interim dean for a year before being formally appointed to the position in 2006.

At Colorado State, Woods has focused on making the College of Engineering more collaborative and building interdisciplinary programs in biomedical and systems engineering. Her leadership in the college has focused on greater interdisciplinary cooperation—within the college and across campus—and created a strategic focus on research programs that have global impact and affect quality of life.

Prior to joining Colorado State, Woods was a faculty member at Oregon State University. She earned her doctoral degree from the University of Washington.

Her honors and awards include the College of Engineering Lloyd Carter Award for Outstanding and Inspirational Teaching, the Beaver Champion Award from the president of Oregon State for leadership, the Association of Women in Science Fellow for the Oregon chapter, and the National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator in Engineering Award.

2011 Stanley E. Kappe Award

Sandra Tripp (BS ’80, MS Sanitary Engineering ’82) received the Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE) 2011 Stanley E. Kappe Award, presented to an individual for performance of extraordinary and outstanding service to the advancement of the objectives of AAEE.

Tripp is a registered engineer who works as a consultant in Cape Cod, Mass. Prior to that she worked for Stearns & Wheeler, LLC, which recently became GHD, Inc. She served municipal clients while actively training and developing junior engineers and project managers. She has published many professional papers at both the state and national levels.

In addition to her duties as a consulting engineer, Tripp has contributed substantially to both national and state professional organizations. An active member of the AAEE since 1993, she has served on numerous committees and several ad-hoc work groups and currently chairs the Admissions Committee and the Seminars and Workshops Committee.

NAWIC Award

Megan Jacobs, PE (center) received the “NAWIC of the Year” Award. Also pictured are Davie Hurlburt, PE, and Myndi Bacon, PE, of SME.

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Lansing Chapter #177 recently awarded Megan Jacobs (BS ’03) with the prestigious “NAWIC of the Year” Award. Jacobs serves as treasurer of the NAWIC Lansing Chapter #177 and is a senior engineer with Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc. (SME).

The award recognizes a NAWIC member who supports the role of women in the construction industry, serves as a role model for women in the industry, and has made a major contribution to the chapter through her work, energy, accomplishments and commitment this past year. Jacobs has served on the NAWIC Lansing Board since 2009 and is currently treasurer and chair of the chapter’s CAD/Design/Drafting Competition. She also co-chaired the NAWIC Region 4 Forum Conference held in Lansing in May.

With nine years of experience at SME, Jacobs specializes in providing solutions to geotechnical and pavement engineering challenges and constructability issues. She recently served as senior engineer for the Accident Fund National Corporate Headquarters in Lansing, as well as the McLaren Proton Therapy Center, which is under construction in Flint. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in Michigan.

CEE Alum One of 40 Under 40 Leaders for the North Carolina Triad

Stephanie Luster-Teasley (MS ’00, PhD ’03) has been named one of the North Carolina Triad’s 40 Leaders Under 40 for 2011 by The Business Journal (February 18). Luster-Teasley is an environmental engineer and an assistant professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering of North Carolina AT&T State University.

Her research focuses on water and wastewater treatment, remediation of soil and groundwater, and air pollution. She has developed a controlled-release biodegradable polymer in pellet form that delivers chemical oxidants to decontaminate soil and water from pollutants, harmful bacteria, or other toxic substances over an extended period. An international patent application is pending.

In Memoriam

We are sorry to report the death of the following CEE alumni. Their careers spanned many decades and are a testament to the variety of employment available to civil engineers. They are:

Vilis M. Barevics (BS CE ’62) died December 24, 2010.

Henry C. Beattie, Sr. (BS CE ’42) died November 24, 2010, in Lakeland, Fla.


Harry C. Wills (BS CE ’37) died April 8, 2011, in Carlsbad, Calif.

To read the obituaries, visit www.egr.msu.edu/alumni/class-notes-obits.
Student Connections

Graduate Student Awards

Alla Alpatova receives her award from Manoochehr Kooshefshani, associate dean for graduate studies. Professor Susan Masten (center) looks on.

Rustin Fike received first place in the 2011 Fitch Beach Award competition and was also named the 2011 Outstanding Civil Engineering PhD student. His adviser is Venkatesh Kodur.

Alla Alpatova was named the 2011 Outstanding Environmental Engineering PhD student. Her adviser is Susan Masten.

Two master’s students also were recognized. They are Yi Sun, a civil engineering student whose adviser is Rigoberto Burgueño, and Marriya Munir, an environmental engineering student whose adviser is Irene Xagoraraki.

Distinguished Service Award

Two CEE seniors, Rebecca Forbes and Kelly McElroy, received Distinguished Service Awards at an awards banquet hosted by the MSU Society of Women Engineers.

Forbes is from Manistee, Mich., and is the daughter of Jeanette and Kevin Forbes. She will graduate in December 2011 and hopes to start a full-time job. “In my senior year of high school I took a pilot AP Environmental Science class and that sparked my interest in environmental engineering.”

McElroy is from Farmington, Mich., and is the daughter of Carol and Patrick McElroy. She will graduate in December 2011. This summer she is interning at Dow Chemical in Midland, Mich.

“I chose this major, because I wanted to do something challenging that would open more opportunities in my future,” says McElroy. “Also, I wanted a major that would allow me to be active in what I do in school and in the real world.”

McElroy is the president of the MSU Environmental Engineering Student Society. “Every month, we bring in professionals to talk about what they do in the environmental world. We also plan outreach activities such as Girl Scout Day and the Annual Bumper Sticker Contest,” says McElroy. She is a rower on the MSU Concrete Canoe team. CEE professor Susan Masten nominated her for the award.

National Chi Epsilon Scholarship

Christopher Dean, a civil engineering senior who will graduate in December 2011, is the recipient of the 2011 Dr. Eugene A. Glysson National Chi Epsilon Scholarship.

Dean plans to use the scholarship money to help with his last semester’s tuition and books. After graduation he will pursue a master’s degree, with a focus on pavement engineering, under CEE professor Gilbert Baladi.

Dean is from Okemos, Mich., and is an avid sports fan. “I love attending any Spartan athletic event.” He has been a member of the Izzone for four years. Dean is the president of the MSU chapter of Chi Epsilon.

Outstanding Diversity Programs Awards

Three CEE students received Outstanding Diversity Programs Awards at an awards banquet in February. They are Jessica Holberg, a junior, whose award was sponsored by Consumers Energy; Ronell Joseph Eisma, a junior, whose award was sponsored by Norfolk Southern Corporation; and George Williams, a sophomore, whose award was sponsored by Union Pacific Railroad. These awards are presented to students who are active in Diversity Programs Office activities and student groups. Students must apply for the awards and award winners are chosen by committee for the quality of their overall application and dedication to the organization in which they are involved.

2011 Design Day

As their senior capstone project, six student teams developed preliminary designs for elements of MSU’s Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB), the $550 million cutting-edge research facility to advance understanding of rare nuclear isotopes and the evolution of the cosmos. Teams developed preliminary plans for various issues associated with construction of the 1,000-foot-long linac tunnel.

The Civil Engineering Senior Design Award ($700 and plaques) was presented to the best team as judged by the faculty and a panel of practicing engineers. The 2011 spring Design Award went to Team 1, which included seniors Sam Bell, Andrew Gronowski, Colin Hassenger, Keagan Robert Niles, Erik Ohlsson, and John Paul.

High-Achieving Student Recognition

Congratulations to high-achieving students from the CEE department. Undergraduate students with the highest grade point average in each engineering department and program were recognized for their academic efforts at an awards banquet hosted by the MSU Society of Women Engineers in February. The students are Andrew Block, Jessica Holberg, Erik Ohlsson, Alyssa Petz, Luke Prudhomme, Hongyu Shen, and Ross Simons.

Board of Trustees Awards

At the April 15 MSU Board of Trustees meeting, 33 students, including CEE student Erik Ohlsson, received Board of Trustees Awards for having the highest scholastic average at the close of his or her last semester in attendance at Michigan State University. They all received a 4.0 GPA.

This semester’s number of recipients is the most in the award’s history, which dates back to 1921. The students were also recognized at their respective spring commencements May 6-8.

Ohlsson, of Lake Orion, is the son of Merrily and Donald Ohlsson. He is a graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory.
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