I am thrilled to provide a comment for this Alumni Newsletter as I can again report that the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering continues to thrive with ongoing high demand for our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programs, continuing increase in peer reviewed research output and higher than ever external grant income.

Each year, I expect these measures of performance to plateau and each year I have been pleasantly surprised to see improvement in these indicators. These achievements would not have been possible if it were not for the efforts of our amazing staff.

Indeed, the pressures to perform at the highest level in teaching, research and administration are immense with a clear need to provide staff with sufficient support to achieve agreed goals. This is being achieved in a number of ways within the School including establishment of an effective Teaching Assistantship Scheme and by increased numbers of tutors - although tutor training continues to need attention. Also, the extra income that the School receives as a result of increased enrolments has enabled further expenditure on doctoral scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, new equipment and refurbishment of School infrastructure, all of which assist our research effort.

While the Head of School does need to "captain the ship", the management effort is very much shared and, in this regard, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of the Chairs of School Committees, Directors of UNSW Research Centres based within the School, and the School Management Group. Staff in these positions carry a huge load in ensuring day-to-day matters are attended to and, for this, I am greatly indebted. I would also like to acknowledge the input of the Industry Advisory Committee to the School. This Committee not only provides feedback on School programs and activities but has been proactive in developing a range of highly successful initiatives including the Primary School Maths Prizes and Year 10 Work Experience Bus Tour.

I trust you find this Alumni Newsletter informative and welcome any feedback that you may have on our programs and activities. Those reading this newsletter will almost certainly have life experiences which, through increased engagement, we could all learn from. Please contact Mary O'Connell, our External Relations Manager, if you would like to interact more closely with the School.

T David Waite
Scientia Professor and Head of School

CVEN Alumni Registration

The CVEN Alumni Registration is a contact point between the School and our graduate community. We would like to keep in touch so that you can be kept informed of key developments in the School. School Alumni can perform an essential on-going contribution to the School in terms of:

- Feedback on School direction and areas for improvement
- May participate in School programs and processes including curriculum review, student mentoring, raising participation rates of women in the BE programs, fundraising, supporting industrial training, and other relevant activities.
- Provide financial or mentoring support for students as in CEVSOC (undergraduate society), or CERSA (research student society) activities.
- Attend research or industry seminars.

Please let us know where you are by filling out the online Registration form.

http://www.civeng.unsw.edu.au/information-for/alumni-industry/alumni

You will receive a copy of the biannual CVEN Newsletters and our Annual Report.

Please note that due to IT changes our old online alumni registration data has been archived. We therefore invite all our alumni to re-register with your up to date contact details.

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Record discoveries

In the highly competitive annual ARC grants, announced in November 2011 for funding commencing in 2012, the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering won a record nine Discovery Project grants, totalling $3.26 Million. This was the largest number of Discovery grants and funds received by any School at UNSW, which in turn received the most ARC funding of any university in the State.

School projects carried out through the two main research centres, the Centre for Infrastructure Engineering and Safety (CIES) and the Water Research Centre (WRC) involve innovative research in areas of structural engineering, coastal engineering, computational mechanics, hydrology, water resources, and environmental engineering. Topics involve research into:

- breaking wave effects to improve coastal zone design and safety outcomes;
- the upheaval buckling of concrete pavements and design of new pavements made from low-carbon geopolymer concretes;
- reserves of strength in reinforced concrete framed structures to withstand extreme events such as cyclonic winds;
- investigations into nonlinear long-term behaviour and analysis of high strength concrete panels;
- new strategies for design flood estimation in a changing climate;
- mapping Australia’s water cycle using space based satellites, sophisticated ground based instruments and advanced modelling tools;
- developing an advanced numerical tool for the safety assessment of plate and shell structures;
- new perspectives on iron oxide transformations and their impact on organisms - and the mobility of uranium and arsenic in groundwaters;
- and new research into the use of nanoparticulate silver in purification of contaminated drinking waters.

Continuing growth in research

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Refereed Publications</th>
<th>ARC Grants Won</th>
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<td>2011</td>
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Transport Innovation

NSW Minister for Transport, The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian visited UNSW on 21 March 2012 for a presentation from Evans & Peck Professor of Transport Innovation Travis Waller on the work of the new Research Centre for Integrated Transport Innovation (rCITI) which is based at the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Ms Berejiklian had been unable to attend rCITI’s launch event last November and had requested a meeting to familiarize herself with this new research centre.

Engineering for the Earth

The School’s material flow and waste management research leader Stephen Moore has been undertaking long term joint studies with Prof Ma at National Taiwan University and Prof Sakai at Kyoto University on material flow analysis through the Taiwanese, Japanese and Australian economies, where they have mostly worked on comparative Cadmium flows through their differently structured economies. Their work is now extending to considering the trade related material flows of Cadmium in zinc and other concentrates from Australia to Taiwan, Japan, Korea and China; and how national and international policies can be best developed to control this toxic bio accumulative substance.

Stephen is just one of our many academic staff who share their cutting edge research with postgraduate coursework students through the School’s popular MEngSc programs. The outcomes from analysis by Moore’s PhD students are then used as case studies for coursework masters students undertaking assignments in waste and environmental management subjects. Here they are given the fundamental analysis of cadmium and other substances such as phosphorus and organic carbon, and use this to design prioritized modifications to regional infrastructure to achieve more sustainable economies, from a material flow perspective, at a regional scale.
working with us...

Primary School Maths Prize

Members of our Industry Advisory Committee, School staff and several alumni presented 120 UNSW Civil and Environmental Engineering Primary School Prizes in Mathematics at a number of Sydney and NSW primary schools in 2011.

The objective of the prize is to encourage a lifelong interest in mathematics - as one of the key requirements for a rewarding, fulfilling and socially useful engineering career. The prize also raises the profile of the civil engineering profession, the School and UNSW.

If you would like to present the prize at your old primary school, or at any other primary school, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the School. E: p.tesoriero@unsw.edu.au

Scholarship Star

Alexander Rogan (BE Hons 1 in civil engineering) was one of three outstanding School of Civil and Environmental Engineering graduates in 2011 to be awarded the University Medal. Alex comes from a cotton farm outside the town of St George, Queensland, and was able to come to the university of his choice, UNSW, 'the best reputation in Australia', as a recipient of the UNSW Stan Hall Rural Scholarship in Civil Engineering.

Alex began his degree with the idea of becoming a river engineer – but as he progressed in his studies he found that 'geotechnics as well as water engineering truly fascinated me', and has now begun his career with well known specialist geotechnical consultancy firm, PSM.

'I think the reason I enjoy geotechnical and water engineering so much' he says, 'is because both of these strands play such a critical part in making our society what it is. All buildings need solid safe ground on which to stand, and everywhere needs a water supply system that can survive droughts and ever increasing population growth!' My fourth year thesis topic was “Aquitards and groundwater sustainability - Investigating soil moisture changes in the unsaturated zone” The study area for this thesis was Gunnedah in rural NSW, where much of the agricultural water supply comes from aquifers.’

During his time at the School Alex kept busy with tutoring younger students, a mentoring opportunity that he found highly enjoyable, especially 'with courses such as soil mechanics that most students find quite difficult.' He was also involved with UNSW Rotaract. His leadership roles did not, however, affect his studies, and as well as the University Medal, he received a Deans award in 2010 and was also awarded the GHD Civil and Environmental Engineering prize in water engineering in November 2011.

For the future, he hopes to 'hone my engineering skills in industry and learn what I need to do to become more than a graduate (baby) engineer, whilst making my mark on some challenging and exciting projects.' For Alex, 'UNSW civil engineering has allowed me to follow my passions, as well as discover some unique and new ones, something I will always be thankful for.'

CVEN Alumni Foundation Fund

If you would like to assist talented young people fulfil their dreams of a challenging and rewarding career in civil and environmental engineering, we invite you to support our Alumni Foundation Fund.

In 2012 the School has established a special CVEN Alumni Foundation Fund to further connect alumni with the life of the School, in particular its current students. Funds received from alumni will be used to support students of the School through the provision of undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, as well as a variety of student focused activities such as support for CEVSOC (undergraduate student society) and CERSA (postgraduate student society) activities, facilities and prizes.

You are welcome to donate directly or you may wish to work with others to raise enough funds for a scholarship in your own graduation year’s name.

Donations of $2 or more to UNSW are tax deductible in Australia. Online donations can be made directly at: www.civeng.unsw.edu.au/information-for/alumni-industry

For further information please contact the School m.oconnell@unsw.edu.au.
Increasing the proportion of engineering students who are women.

Graduate ambassadors wanted.

While the proportion of women studying the BE environmental engineering degree program is slightly over 50%, and the new Civil with Architecture degree has nearly one third female participation rate, the Civil Engineering degree program still has only 15% women students.

As seen from the chart below right, there has been no real increase in female enrolments at the School or Faculty level over the last decade. This lack of progression in gender inclusivity is also recorded at other universities – and engineering workplaces - around the country and overseas.

The School would like the proportion of our students who are women to be higher than it is. In Feb 2012 several CVEN women alumni and careers advisors from girl’s schools met to discuss the issue. The Chair of the Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) Ian McIntyre, and the School’s External Relations Manager Mary O’Connell also attended. Acknowledging the complexity of the issue, several ideas for action were mooted:

• Send real life women engineers into secondary schools to share their stories.
• Promote engineering as fun, challenging, socially useful, travel opportunities and people oriented – also well paid: “I made that’ may appeal. But so will the ‘I made a difference’ message.
• Broaden the perception of engineering – point out the diversity of opportunities - there is the traditional construction/hard hat role but also there are lots of engineers who are in planning, design, management, government, policy, business, procurement, operations etc.
• Develop work experience program for Year 10 students, and ensure female participation. Support existing recruitment strategies such as Honeywell, NYSF, engineering challenges, high school visits to universities. Make sure women engineers or women engineering students are taking part in these programs to role model for girls.

Messages for the School: Ensure the culture of the CVEN school is positive for women. More women lecturers, more women on IAC, offer talks from practising women engineers, women alumni mentoring of women students, place more emphasis on uses and positive social outcomes of engineering, provide some inspiration, and better prepare all students for the people side of the work.

To our women graduates: If you would like to help us raise the participation rates of women in our programs by acting as a Graduate Ambassador; for example talking to young women at a secondary school, awarding prizes, mentoring current students or in any other way, please contact the School (m.oconnell@unsw.edu.au).

Samantha Aston (nee Farmilo)

BE Hons ‘98
Commercial Manager, Amcor B9 Botany Project, Leighton Contractors.
Member: CVEN Industry Advisory Committee

In May 2012 the School welcomed Sam to our Industry Advisory Committee.

What I am doing now and why

I am enjoying life as a Commercial Manager with Leighton Contractors, being involved in projects of various types and sizes, in a number of countries, and in a variety of industry sectors, from pre-contract through to execution and commissioning. I was aware from a very early stage in my engineering life that I was meant to be on site, kicking around in the dirt and working as part of a team.

The satisfaction experienced when you drive on a road or enter a building that you have built is quite tangibly unique, and experienced only by the special few who follow a career in engineering. Progressing to my current role within the organisation was only natural from my role as a project engineer on infrastructure, building and industrial projects, combined with my education and experience in law. It’s been a good fit, as well as a fun and very rewarding adventure.

Best (or most challenging or both) School memories

My best memories at UNSW were the CIVSOC events which integrated students from all years. The familiarity within the faculty meant there was always someone around to help out with assignments and exam preparation. I enjoyed the many hours spent in the library... and on the library lawn.... with the invaluable study groups which tended to form at those critical exam times. Successfully passing Ray’s Structural Analysis exam was the ultimate challenge – once you’re through that it’s smooth sailing! Generally, the academic staff were always approachable and keen to help solve problems presented by students, which I guess is not surprising given their training!

Advice to the student of today?

Communication with others is vital to success. Like every good engineer, use all of your available resources. And don’t be afraid to have some fun whilst you can.....there will be no more late morning starts once your working career starts.....unless you’re on night shift! One more thing – it will be very handy for you to be familiar with how to read a set of construction drawings.
Antonio D’Urso  
(BE Civil Hons ’70, MEngSc ’73)  
What did you most enjoy from the years at the School?  
The company of fellow students and the caring attitude of lecturers. We felt they wanted us to do well.  
What was most challenging?  
Trying to make sure I passed all exams as failing was not an option. Also travelling 4 hours a day from Blacktown in Sydney’s West each day and working weekends to complement a Commonwealth scholarship did not leave many hours for studying. My parents only did one year of primary school in the mountains of Calabria in Southern Italy so along with my younger brother Cosmo, who followed with a teacher’s scholarship at UNSW, we were the first in our family to complete primary, secondary and then tertiary education.  
I particularly remember the Head of the School Professor Vallentine – he taught us management one year and was annoyed that at 9.05am students were still walking in so one day he decided to close the door and late arrivals were left out. Next week it was 9.05am and Professor Vallentine had not arrived, so one quick thinking student locked the door. When the Professor arrived he tried to open the door and couldn’t, he looked through the doors glass view panel and left. From the following week onwards, the door was never locked.  
Best aspect of your career to date:  
Being amongst very talented engineers at Commonwealth Public Works after graduation, the many construction projects with Transfield, EPT and Avant Constructions. The great talent and commitment of fellow workers both professional and trades. It is an amazing feeling to see a project from start to completion. Whether it’s a small or large project, the smile on clients and workers’ faces on a job well done has always been and will always be very satisfying.  
I believe the engineering profession seems to struggle to get the recognition it rightfully deserves. There are still improvements that can be made. I felt a big development was in [my son] Mark’s studies where students did more projects in groups and they were introduced to real projects much earlier in their course. There should be more emphasis on practical experience in each of the long holiday breaks. Engineers have to be encouraged to take a more proactive approach in any situation they might find themselves in.  

Mark D’Urso  
(BE Civil Hons 1’05, MEngSc ’05)  
The book, The History of the UNSW School of Civil & Environmental Engineering sparked a lot of memories for both Dad and I. My two brothers and I grew up hearing of a few of his memories of university life with not much of it making sense until I went through it myself. Construction and engineering has always been in my blood and when it came to looking at universities, I initially visited Sydney Uni (as it was slightly less travelling time from home) but Dad mentioned to at least just visit UNSW and when I did I never looked back.  
What did you most enjoy from the years at the School?  
Meeting and studying with like minded people from all different cultures and backgrounds. I also enjoyed the challenges that came from studying civil engineering which resulted in acquiring technical based skills and solving problems.  
What was most challenging?  
Travelling from the Hills (in Sydney’s Northwest) to UNSW everyday which took approximately 2 hours door to door each way no matter what mode of transport.  
Any one person or incident you particularly remember?  
The paddle pop bridge building project in first year first semester Engineering Practice 1 with Professor Stephen Foster in 2001. After doing this project I entered in the national paddle pop bridge building competition held at Sydney University the following year. I won the ‘Structural Integrity’ prize which included two tickets to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge. I climbed it soon afterwards with my then girlfriend who is now my wife, Maria. It was a huge experience for me because since I was young I was always fascinated by the bridge.  
Best aspect of your career to date  
Being able to work on technical and non-technical aspects of projects and business. Skills acquired from engineering allow me to pick up new concepts quickly and push and change accordingly, whether it be coordinating a structural steel design with precast concrete manufacturers to non-technical business management issues such as project performance or major tender submissions.  
Any comment about the profession – its value, its future etc…  
The profession seems to struggle with raising its profile, even in times of skills shortages. Also, there will always be a struggle, I believe, when there is a larger motivation towards making money before a rewarding career that makes a positive difference not just for today but for future generations. The irony with this is that the profession would not be as highly regarded if it was solely and largely financially driven.  
The School History is available from the School Office (email p.tesoriero@unsw.edu.au) or can be ordered online at: http://www civeng.unsw.edu.au/node/577
Associate Professor Don Fraser

I taught structural engineering 1968-1992 and History of Civil Engineering in the last ten.

Best memories:
Finding my niche employment teaching structural engineering. Gaining a PhD in 1975. The 1976 sabbatical year at Aston Uni, England, brought me face to face with engineering history from Roman through the Industrial Revolution to modern times. And the student Construction Camps for the reconstruction of the steel bridge tower at Darlington Pt.

I’ll never forget:
An older student was frequently absent and was way behind with assignments. Asked why, he said he was a 707 pilot for Qantas and studying civil engineering in his spare time.

Personally, it was scoring 4.5 on the students’ 5-point “Richter” lecturing scale.

Doing now:
As noted above, I had become engrossed in the history of civil engineering specialising in the bridges of NSW, wrote papers, two books, plaqued 17 bridges and conducted tours of Sydney Harbour Bridge. I toured NSW many times visiting bridge sites and writing reports for the DMR and SRA. Concurrently there was my membership of Engineers Australia’s Panel for Engineering Heritage which resulted in the book Sydney From Settlement to City: An engineering history of Sydney. The U3A Organisation provided the opportunity to give a series of public talks on engineering and famous engineers, which were much appreciated.

But there were some overdue holidays, The Indian Pacific, The Ghan, Kangaroo Is and Murray River, North Queensland and Thursday Is and Norfolk Is.

1989-90 Cowra Construction Camp

Associate Professor Ian Cordery


The busy retiree: Ian Cordery at the School in May 2012 with honours thesis student Shweta Shrestha. Shweta’s work is on the evaluation of existing hydrological models.

Best memories:
Academic freedom. To be innovative in doing the required job well. Reward was to see students suddenly grasp a new, mind-blowing concept and knowing their lives would never be the same again, either as engineers or as contributors to society. UNSW encouragement to work on topics of personal interest and to organise work hours to make this possible. This included fitting field work in with class schedules. There were also lots of opportunities to meet and talk with students from all disciplines about the Bible and what life is really about.

I’ll never forget:
Inspiration of people like Crawford Munro (Foundation Prof of Civil engineering). He and his colleagues were great motivators and supporters of juniors. Their enthusiasm and belief encouraged many of us who were less bold, to be innovative. Once I desperately needed a particular streamflow measurement for my research. Two of us went to the site in Royal National Park and successfully made the measurement. It was pouring rain and our return to our vehicle at dusk was cut off by a flooded creek. We bashed through about a kilometre of thick bush in semi, then total darkness to a railway line then a road. At a street light we discovered we were each playing host to about 30 leeches. The next few days were very uncomfortable – all for science!

Doing now:
It’s fun to continue assisting research and honours students. In the process I temporarily imagine I’m their age and more importantly, it keeps the grey matter active. I like to keep physically fit to do the things I want to do, like work for my church, play golf, frequently visit my local library and keep in touch with my scattered family.

David Doran, David Pilgrim and Ian Cordery with a copy of Australian Rainfall and Runoff ’1987.
Overdue Reunion

Peter Huyakorn and Ron Cox worked together as PhD students in the early 1970s on groundwater studies - undertaking laboratory experiments, field investigations and finite element modelling of non-linear free surface unsteady groundwater flow. Both were supervised at Water Research Laboratory WRL by Colin Dudgeon.

Today Peter, a native of Thailand, is an internationally recognized expert in hydrogeological investigations, groundwater modelling and environmental remediation – he is the founder of HydroGeoLogic (HGL) a global environmental engineering and water resource services firm, headquartered in Virginia, USA. A/Prof Ron Cox is a longstanding academic within the School and since 2009 has concurrently led the Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Settlements and Infrastructure (ACCARNSI).

In October 2011 when the two men met in Washington, they had not seen each other since 1974. Discussions were wide ranging - common interests remained in effective use of groundwater resources, environmental remediation of contaminated sites, optimisation of 3D modelling and decision making. The need for more effective modelling of interconnected surface and groundwater systems related to environmental management of coal seam gas was common to both USA and Australia. Research collaborations between HGL and the School are to follow.

Class of 62, Celebrating 50 years of friendship

A close knit group of friends from the class of ’62, Mal Dennett, John (Carrot Top) Moran, David (Rigor) Mortiss and Tom Crow met again in May this year at the Faculty’s annual Golden Jubilee alumni gathering. Engineering alumni from the class of 1962 were given a tour of campus to show them the achievements of the Faculty and the University they helped build. Luncheon, speeches and gifts followed, including a copy of the School’s own history.

The four friends played their own part in the School’s history – they were instigators of Traditions Day – keen to have some ceremony and shine in the workaday life of the busy and still relatively new School. If a large part of the day’s ceremonies took place in the Clare Hotel near the Ultimo campus – so be it.

Many of the twenty-strong contingent from civil engineering who came to the Golden Jubilee luncheon were also still in regular contact with one another, the bonds of friendship forged in the days of Ultimo and the early Kensington campus surviving over decades and distances. John Moran who spoke on behalf of the civil students recalled the dedication and vision of the civil engineering academic staff especially founding Professor Crawford Munro. Moran recalled Munro as a powerful presence - 6ft 6” and imposing in every respect. He was a visionary leader in his area of water engineering and also inclusive, encouraging a strong School spirit.

Other early staff John mentioned in his honour list included George Bennett, Joe Brettle, Stan Hall, Roy Hattersley, Dave Howell, Jack Jenkins, Laurie O’Neill, David Pilgrim, Rupert Vallentine, Ron Woodhead and Bill Yandell. Both George Bennett and David Pilgrim were in attendance at the luncheon.
A Growing School

Student enrolments in all our programs continue to rise. Sustained growth in the last seven years has seen the undergraduate student population more than double in size, and the entry rank also rise. Our ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) is now 91.0 for the Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering degrees, 95.9 for the Civil with Architecture degree, and 96.30 for our increasingly popular combined degree BE/BCom.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Undergraduates</th>
<th>Postgrad coursework</th>
<th>ME/PhDs</th>
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<th>Professional and technical staff</th>
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Industrial Training Opportunities Wanted:

Our students always appreciate help in finding industrial training for their 60 days requirement for the BE. If you are able to provide industrial training/employment for our Year 3 /Year 4 students please contact the School Office at info@civeng.unsw.edu.au

Our students would love to hear from you.

Excel in your field and expand your options

Postgraduate coursework teaching has been one of the School’s major contributions to the knowledge and skill base of the industry. Our MEngSc educates students to the top level required nationally in eight specialisations: civil engineering, environmental engineering, geotechnical engineering, project management, structural engineering, water resources (includes coastal engineering) and water, wastewater and waste engineering. Many of our courses are available by distance. See www.civeng.unsw.edu.au

Our MEngSc is currently Commonwealth Supported (HECS) for local students commencing in 2012. This means significant reductions - of up to two thirds - in tuition fees. Midyear entry closes on May 30 but late applications may be accepted until the end of June. Act now for your professional future. www.apply.unsw.edu.au

Faculty of Engineering Alumni Dinner

Calling alumni from graduation years

Date: Friday, August 3, 2012 - 6:30pm - 10:00pm

Location: Scientia - Leighton Hall

For more information and booking contact Effy Ofidis Marketing & Events Officer, Faculty of Engineering e.ofidis@unsw.edu.au

Links to remember

Register with us at www.civeng.unsw.edu.au/information-for/alumni-industry/alumni

Donate for our students at: www.civeng.unsw.edu.au/information-for/alumni-industry

Order your copy of the CVEN History at: www.civeng.unsw.edu.au/node/577/mid/9839

Contact details: info@civeng.unsw.edu.au