Jim Pankow Joins CEE Faculty

Dr. James Pankow joined the Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty in Fall 2008 after 30 years at OGI and comes to us from OHSU. Jim is jointly appointed to the Chemistry department, melding his training in both engineering and chemistry. Having received his B.A. in Chemistry with Honors from the State University of New York (SUNY) with special studies in Graz, Austria, Jim went on to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering Science from Caltech.

Jim’s research focus has involved the application of chemical principles to understanding how chemicals partition between important phases in the environment. He has been listed as a “highly cited researcher” since 2003. A primary focus of Jim’s work has involved the study of the gas/particle (G/P) partitioning process and how compounds distribute themselves between the gas phase and the associated particles of aerosol systems. His groundbreaking work on this theory, which is used in climate change research, resulted in his receipt of the 1999 American Chemical Society Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science & Technology and of the 2005 Haagen-Smit Prize. Jim’s research has also provided the foundation of the Jung-Pankow model which is used to predict how toxic compounds such as PCBs, pesticides and dioxins have contaminated the air and how they are transported to sensitive remote polar ecosystems. Jim’s research interests don’t stop there. He is very interested in cancer risk from tobacco smoke carcinogens exposure and has served on a selected advisory panel convened by the NIH regarding nicotine regulation. Jim is also very interested in contaminants in drinking water and secured a five year project from the U.S.G.S on that topic. Jim is the author of more than 130 peer-reviewed publications and four books.

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Miguel Figliozzi receives Best Paper Award at international transportation conference - August 2008

Miguel Figliozzi, Civil Environmental Engineering faculty, received the Best Paper Award in the Transportation Planning category at the 10th International Conference on Applications of Advanced Technologies in Transportation held in Athens, Greece. His award-winning paper is titled, “An Iterative Route Construction and Improvement Algorithm for the Vehicle Routing Problem with Soft and Hard Time Windows.”

Bertini and Jay promoted to full professors - September 2008

Robert Bertini and David Jay have been promoted to full Professors in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Portland State University effective September 16, 2008. Congratulations!

Miguel Figliozzi presents at North American Travel Monitoring Conference and Exposition – September 2008


Christopher Monsere authors paper in Accident Analysis and Prevention – September 2008


Peter Dusicka receives National Science Foundation grant – September 2008

Peter Dusicka, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, received a $349,600 grant from the National Science Foundation for development of an innovative structural system for steel frame buildings. The project also involves collaboration with faculty at University of Washington and California State University in Los Angeles.

New faculty member gives keynote address at MCECS Alumni event - October 2008

Dr. Jim Pankow gave a lecture entitled “Ending the Hubris: Engineering and Sustainability in the 21st Century.” In addition to this lecture the Maseeh College was pleased to announce two large donations. Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA) has generously invested in the DTNA Fluid Mechanics Laboratory, which will allow the College to equip the Laboratory with state-of-the-art work stations and systems that will allow our students to experience a true hands-on engineering education. The DTNA Fluid Mechanics Laboratory supports students who are pursing degrees in Civil and Mechanical Engineering.

Miguel Figliozzi presents at Operations Research and Management Science meeting - October 2008


Chris Berger and Scott Wells author article in civil engineers journal - October 2008


Heejun Chang, Martin Lafrenz, and Miquel Figliozzi receive Oregon Transportation grant - October 2008

Heejun Chang and Martin Lafrenz, Geography faculty, and Miguel Figliozzi, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, were awarded a $87,002 grant from Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium to study future flooding impacts on transportation infrastructure and traffic patterns resulting from climate change.

Christopher Monsere presents at North American Travel Monitoring conference - October 2008

Christopher Monsere, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, presented three papers at the North American Travel Monitoring Exhibition and Conference in Washington, D.C. The co-authored papers were titled “Toward Incorporating Arterial Performance Quality in the PORTAL Archived Data User Service,” “Building a WIM Data Archive for Improved Modeling, Design, and Rating” and “Techniques for Establishing and Measuring Data Quality in an Archived Data User Service.”
Franz Rad presents lecture series to U.S. Navy engineers - October 2008

Franz Rad, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, was invited by the American Concrete Institute to present a series of lectures to the U.S. Navy engineers in Silverdale, Wash. Topics included the application of the 2008 ACI Building Code to the design of reinforced concrete structures, with an emphasis on earthquake-resistant provisions.

Green Building Research in CEE - October 2008

In the past ten years green building construction, a process which aims to decrease environmental impact of buildings through recycled materials and improved efficiency, has taken root. A Portland State University professor, Peter Dusicka, Ph.D., P.E., is engaging directly with the community to study the seismic performance of green building materials. Dusicka, an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science at Portland State University, has teamed up with a Portland-area start-up company to further develop products used in the construction of green buildings. "Green building features are often not incorporated in structural elements of a building and currently little research exists on how public safety gets balanced with the new materials, especially during seismic events,” says Dusicka. Dusicka and his team of student researchers, one graduate student and two undergraduate students, in the infraStructure Testing and Applied Research (iSTAR) Laboratory create full-scale building walls using recycled plastic and reinforced concrete. Using hydraulic actuators the research team is able to simulate seismic conditions and test the walls to the point of destruction. If the wall construction is suitable for the Pacific Northwest it will eventually be tested on the iSTAR Laboratory’s shake table. Dusicka hopes his research findings will be useful in further promoting green building construction. Dusicka is directing research in the iSTAR Laboratory and works on other sustainability related infrastructure projects in collaboration with the Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University and faculty from the University of Washington and California State University, Los Angeles. The mission of the iSTAR Laboratory is to enhance durability and improve functionality of our infrastructure by conducting applied research and disseminating the gained knowledge to all sectors of the engineering community as well as the general public. The Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science at Portland State University creates an inspiring educational and research environment for students, faculty, and staff to expand knowledge and improve lives through innovation in research and engineering education. The hallmark of the college is a locally relevant and globally significant impact, demonstrated by: a diverse portfolio of collaborative and cross-disciplinary research; exceptional students who apply cutting-edge research to current issues and who are sought after in the global market; strong partnerships with industry, government, and non-profit organizations that promote economic opportunities and contribute to the economic development of the region.

Hamid Moradkhani elected associate editor – November 2008

Hamid Moradkhani, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, was elected associate editor of the Journal of Hydrologic Engineering through 2010.

Miguel Figliozzi co-authors article in Transportation Research Record – November 2008


Hamid Moradkhani elected chair of Environmental and Water Resources Institute committee – December 2008

Hamid Moradkhani, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, was elected chair of the technical committee on "Probabilistic Approaches in Hydrologic and Water Resources Systems” of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute.

Scott Wells and Chris Berger receive grants for water management studies – January 2009

Scott Wells and Chris Berger, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, received grants totaling $323,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Corps of Engineers, the city of Seattle, and the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission. The contracts involve water quality and hydrodynamic modeling studies performed on the Snake River, the Spokane River, the Willamette River basin, and the Cedar Reservoir system (the primary drinking water supply for the city of Seattle). The studies seek to evaluate how to manage large water resources systems and at the same time improve fish habitat and improve the water quality of systems where wastes are discharged.
When Jim arrived at PSU, he didn’t come alone. He brought team members from OGI, including Lorne Isabelle, Bill Asher, Wentai Luo and Cai Chen.

Most recently, Jim was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering in February 2009. Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to “engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature,” and to the “pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.” The NAE shares responsibility with the National Academy of Sciences to advise the federal government on questions of policy in science and technology. Jim earned the honor for his extraordinary contributions to the fields of environmental analytical methods and his internationally regarded work in the behavior of air pollutants and aerosol particles in the earth’s atmosphere.

We are proud to have Jim as a member of the faculty!
Three Westview High School seniors, mentored by Keith Leffler and Dr. David Jay, have won Best in Fair at the Beaverton-Hillsboro Science Expo - March 2009

Three Westview High School seniors, mentored by Keith Leffler and Dr. David Jay, have won Best in Fair at the Beaverton-Hillsboro Science Expo, the largest regional Intel International Science and Engineering affiliated fair in Oregon. By winning Best of Fair, Peter Landgren, Maanas Tripathi and Harish Vemuri advanced to both the Intel Northwest Science Expo held at PSU in April 2009 and the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held in May 2009. Their project, “Turning the Ocean Upside Down: A Study in Trends of Coastal Upwelling Along the Pacific Northwest Coast”, uses a novel application of wavelet methods to detect the onset and duration of coastal upwelling.

CEE students Bigazzi and Crichlow-Weick awarded the Coral Sales / Douglas P. Daniels Scholarship December 2008

Alex Bigazzi and Olivia Crichlow-Weick were awarded the Coral Sales / Douglas P. Daniels Scholarships for the 2008 academic year. Coral Sales Company of Milwaukie, Oregon college scholarship program began in 1987 to provide scholarships for men and women majoring in Transportation Engineering and Construction Engineering at sixteen Colleges and Universities in the Pacific Northwest. The intent of the scholarship is to support students in the transportation field who are involved in their area of study as well as the future of their communities. Congratulations Alex and Olivia!

Chi Epsilon Holds Induction Ceremony - June 2009

Chi Epsilon, Oregon Alpha, held its second initiation ceremony on June 11, 2009. Twenty undergraduate students were initiated. These students are recognized for having demonstrated outstanding scholastic record and demonstrating interest in Civil Engineering. Officers for the 2009-10 academic year were elected: Conner Lamb -President; Carl Olson- Vice President; Joel Weakland-Secretary / Treasurer; Meredith Richards-Editor; Cameron Alexander-Marshall. Congratulations!

CEE student awarded National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship April 2009

Alex Bigazzi, currently an undergraduate research assistant in the ITS Lab at PSU, has been awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. NSF Fellowships are generous three-year awards in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. “NSF Fellows are expected to become knowledge experts who can contribute significantly to research, teaching and innovations in science and engineering.” Alex began graduate studies at PSU in the fall.
Miguel Figliozzi receives grant to study trucking corridors – February 2009

Miguel Figliozzi, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, received a Federal Highway Administration - American Trucking Research Institute grant, as well as data, to study trucking corridors performance in the Pacific Northwest.

Miguel Figliozzi authors article in Transportation Research Record – February 2009


Miguel Figliozzi presents at Transportation Research Board meeting – February 2009

Miguel Figliozzi, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, presented four papers at the Transportation Research Board’s 88th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Trevor Smith Recognized for 25 Years of Service to PSU - March 2009

Dr. Trevor Smith was recognized for his 25 years of service at Portland State University in the Length of Service Awards held at the Smith Center Ballroom. Congratulations Dr. Smith! We look forward to many more!

Miguel Figliozzi appointed to Transportation Network Modeling Committee – March 2009

Miguel Figliozzi, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, has been appointed by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies as a member of the Committee on Transportation Network Modeling, ADB30.

Scott Wells receives grant from Washington Department of Ecology – April 2009

Scott Wells, Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty, received a grant of $114,000 from the Washington Department of Ecology to develop a water quality and hydrodynamic model of Banks Lake in Eastern Washington. Banks Lake receives water by pumped inflows from Lake Roosevelt on the Columbia River and provides irrigation water to a large part of eastern Washington for agriculture. This project will place special emphasis on looking at fish habitat changes that result from management changes in the lake system.

Lisa Diercksen selected as 2009 Denise Dee Denton Hall of Fame Student of the Year – June 2009

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