1/15/2020

Happy New Year, CEGE Alums!

It is my pleasure to join Pat Ellis in inviting you to renew your membership with the Civil Engineering Alumni Society.

I am happy to report that 209 more graduates joined the ranks of our Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering alumni in 2019. I had the opportunity to attend the commencement ceremony in December when Senator Sherrod Brown called upon the graduating class to be guided by two words, “humanity and dignity”. Indeed we are proud to recognize over 6500 alumni whose roles as civil engineers, environmental engineers and geodesists serve society and preserve human dignity through access to new modes of transportation, safe building and infrastructure design and construction practices, reliable water and wastewater systems, and accessible navigation tools. Of course, this these are only a few examples of the myriad ways that our many alumni apply their creativity and initiative to make the world a better place. In my time as Chair, I have enjoyed hearing many of your personal stories and acknowledge your impressive accomplishments, both in your careers and through your community engagement.

As always, we have an open-ended invitation to drop by Hitchcock Hall to say ‘hello’. You will see that we are continuing to expand our efforts to enhance the student experience. Over 2020, we will be upgrading our capstone experience with the addition of an open concept design studio. We have invested in creating a capstone experience for our undergraduate students that parallels to a great extent the experience that they will step into when they enter the workforce. This includes projects that are centered around real sites in the central Ohio area and daily interactions with professional engineering consultants. This year, we are excited to add a modern physical environment to the capstone experience, including new computer systems, collaborative break-out and huddle spaces and some much needed community gathering space. Additionally, we are in the on-going process of upgrading our research facilities so our graduate students can continue to make impactful discoveries during their in-depth educational training. A new program launch is underway to open the opportunity for more undergraduate students to engage closely with faculty on innovative research projects.

While the news of the Department so often focuses on these more tangible aspects of our operation, I recognize that our mission of preparing civil and environmental engineers for their beginning, or next, career stage is only a small part of the elements that make them Buckeyes. It is the shared experience and strong friendships formed as a student that creates our family of alumni and maintains ties with Ohio State. A big ‘Thank you’ to those of you who have made generous contributions to help enhance our teaching and research impact through your time, talents and unwavering support for the Department.

Please keep in touch and share the news of your activities. I look forward to meeting you at a future Civil Engineering Alumni Society event.

Go Bucks!

Allison MacKay, Ph.D.
Professor and Department Chair