Greetings from the Chair

I am pleased to welcome you to this edition of the Buckhorn Bugle, the first of what I hope will be a regular series of newsletters celebrating the students, alumni, supporters, staff and faculty of civil engineering. This issue represents the rebirth of the Buckhorn Bugle brand—I wonder how many of you will recognize the name. Yes, it’s the name of the newsletter published by the department in the past, but do you know the origin of the name? Buckhorn was the location of the surveying camp attended by so many civil engineering students. At that time, many of the nation’s best civil engineering programs introduced real-world experience to their students through surveying summer camps. I suppose the current analog to these camps is the co-op where many of today’s students obtain valuable industrial experience prior to graduating. As a former co-op student, I can relate to both, as my co-ops and internships were spent in the back country areas of Texas near Houston and Austin surveying and logging soil samples. Dr. Gesund tells me that the UK surveying camp was a six week experience held after the freshman and sophomore years.

Reviving a name like the Buckhorn Bugle holds special meaning for me as well, as four years ago I returned to my beloved Kentucky after nearly 45 years. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the outstanding activities and people of our department and that you will take the time to share with me your news for future editions of the Bugle. Please send me your ideas or stories—what would you like to see in future editions?

Reg Souleyrette, Chair
Dr. Gail Brion was recently named a Chellgren Endowed Professor with a stipend to facilitate undergraduate research and curriculum development. Chellgren Endowed Professors are expected to maintain an active research program in their discipline; teach courses in one of the university’s programs of excellence or within their college or department and direct a specific project intended to advance progressive reform of undergraduate education. The Chellgren Center endowment supports the professorships for an explicit period of appointment. Thereafter, faculty who have held these positions, as well as other important faculty leaders in undergraduate education, remain actively engaged as leaders within the Center as Chellgren Faculty Fellows.

In other good news, Dr. Brion was recently awarded an NSF research grant entitled, “EAGER: The Role of Engineered Systems in Adaptation of Staphylococcus aureus.” Dr. Brion is also working on a plan to provide research experiences to a wide variety of undergraduate students. Congratulations Dr. Brion!

Through funding from the Federal Highway Administration, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation, Dr. Harik and a team of students developed CatStrong CRP (carbon rod panels). The lightweight carbon fiber product has been used in the repair of several Kentucky bridges with impressive results due to its portability and ease of application.

“If you were to take a sheet made of the carbon fiber material used in CatStrong, it would be equivalent in strength to a steel plate that is seven to eight times as thick; yet it would be 30 times lighter than that steel plate,” details Harik. “This makes CatStrong a better option for making overhead repairs—something extremely difficult to do with other repair materials.”

Dr. Harik brings international recognition to our department, not to mention an infectious smile and always positive attitude. Congratulations!

Dr. Kelly Pennell was awarded an National Science Foundation CAREER Award for her project, “Vapor Intrusion, Knowledge Brokers and Environmental Health-A Three Dimensional Perspective.” The CAREER award is one of NSF’s highest awards and it supports junior faculty who “exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations.” Well deserved congratulations to Dr. Pennell!

Dr. Tim Taylor was named a 2015 Great Teacher by the UK Alumni Association. This award comes with a $3,000 stipend and recognition at a UK basketball game. He was nominated by Huang Liu, Ying Li and Jiwen Zhang. “Dr. Taylor invests a great deal in his students. He leaves his door open and is always happy to help students with whatever questions we have.” The department appreciates Dr. Taylor’s enthusiasm which spills well beyond the classroom. Despite his busy schedule, he can often be found helping others around the department in their classes as well. Congratulations!
PROMOTIONS AND TENURE

**DR. JIMMY FOX**  
Promoted from Associate Professor with Tenure to Professor

**DR. TIM TAYLOR**  
Promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with Tenure

**DR. NICK STAMATIADIS**  
Reappointed as a Raymond-Blythe Professor in Civil Engineering

**DR. ISSAM HARIK**  
Reappointed as a Raymond-Blythe Professor in Civil Engineering
CE lecturer Samantha Jones Wright led the University of Kentucky’s Women in Engineering (WIE) Summer Workshop Series for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors, who are considering engineering as a possible course of study. For the civil engineering workshop, students learn about the application of forces through a most basic of instruments: the trebuchet. The trebuchet was first employed as a weapon of war in the 12th century, when it was capable of throwing projectiles weighing 350 pounds! Students work in teams to construct the components of a trebuchet, calculate potential results and test the throwing capacity.
Our students care about and help change the world for the better

The University of Kentucky’s new class of Gaines Fellows includes Boone Proffitt, who is from Louisville, Kentucky and majoring in civil engineering. The Gaines Center for the Humanities has chosen 12 outstanding undergraduates as scholars for the university’s Gaines Fellowship Program for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years. Gaines Fellowships are given in recognition of outstanding academic performance, demonstrated ability to conduct independent research, an interest in public issues and a desire to enhance understanding of the human condition through the humanities. Gaines Fellowships are awarded for the tenure of a student’s junior and senior years or for the last two years of a five-year program; students in all disciplines and with any intended profession are given equal consideration.

“Despite how challenging of a major or career it is, it’s worth it to me because I know it’s going to make other people’s lives better,” said Jonathan Kellogg, a senior at the University of Kentucky. The path he chose: civil engineering, which affects everyone, every day (think about the pavement you drive on, the water you drink, the air you breathe). Kellogg, not yet graduated, has already begun to channel his skills and education into advancing the lives of others. He journeyed to the Ugandan cities of Kampala and Jinja in the fall of 2014 where he spent the semester not only gaining hands-on experience as a soon-to-be engineer, but also devoting himself to a greater mission, laying the groundwork for the Amazima Academy and eventually educating hundreds of Ugandan students. “To be able to work and knowing that all the hours I was spending in AutoCAD, our software for drafting the design work, knowing that those designs would one day be built and that eight to 900 children — who would not otherwise have had an education — would be able to have that. It’s a tremendous privilege,” Kellogg said. A large-scale project ($6-$7 million), the Amazima Christian boarding school will provide education to secondary students, focused on problem solving, creative thinking and the entrepreneurial skills necessary for students to better themselves and their families after graduation.

Masters degree student Paul Smith, has been awarded two competitive external geotechnical engineering scholarships for this current semester. Paul is the recipient of the International Association of Foundation Drilling, ADSC Ohio Valley Chapter Thomas Buzek Scholarship. The scholarship includes $3,000 and travel and expenses to the annual meeting. He also received the 2015 Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) Educational Trust At-Large Scholarship, which includes $2,000 and free student membership in DFI.
UK College of Engineering Hall of Distinction

G. Michael Ritchie, who received his bachelor’s degree in 1972, is the former president and CEO of Photo Science (now Quantum Spatial), an aerial mapping company headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky. Ritchie bought the company in 1990 and under his leadership, Photo Science became one of the largest geospatial solutions companies in the United States, increasing revenue from $1 million to $42 million annually. Photo Science’s operations expanded to 10 regional offices across the U.S. with a staff of more than 200 employees. During his time as president and CEO, Photo Science won numerous national awards for its work, including the American Council of Engineering Companies National Engineering Excellence Award in 2003 and 2011.

Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Byers (USAF, Ret.) was The Civil Engineer at U.S. Air Force headquarters, Washington, DC. He was responsible for installation support functions at 166 Air Force bases worldwide with an annual budget of more than $12 billion. He received the Army Corps of Engineers Bronze deFleury Medal for demonstrating a high degree of professional competence, standards of integrity and moral character, with devotion to duty and country. Byers earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in 1981.

Thomas B. Deen was the executive director of the Transportation Research Board, the national transportation research organization and a division within the nonprofit National Research Council of the National Academies of Science and Engineering. He was also a partner at Alan M. Voorhees and Associates, a worldwide leader in urban transportation. A member of the National Academy of Engineering, Deen pioneered the development and application of methods analyzing urban transportation problems and designing urban transit systems. Deen earned his bachelor’s degree in 1951.

UK Alumni Association Hall of Distinguished Alumni
2015 Annual Civil Engineering Banquet Award Winners

YOUNG CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Justin Anderson

YOUNG CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Josh Marrillia, Jason Wright and Mary Beth Wright

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FOUNDERS SOCIETY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Thomas Gumm and Ron Turner

CIVIL ENGINEERING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
John Carr, Ted Richardson and Charles Wood

From left to right: John Carr, Ted Richardson, Chuck Wood, Thomas Gumm, Josh Marilla, Justin Anderson, Ron Turner, Jason Wright and Mary Beth Wright

For more information on the award winners, click here.