



## Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

news for alumni • fall 2020

### From our chair

Greetings from beautiful Madison! My sincere hope is that you and your families are healthy and continue to stay well as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. I am continually amazed by the resilience, patience and dedication of our Badger family. We are only getting stronger.



As we close out our 150th year as a department, I find myself humbled by our rich history and inspired by the passion of our community. What began as a small team of faculty with five students after the department was established in 1870 has grown and evolved in many ways. In spring, we honored 106 graduates, and this fall, we welcomed over 100 new students. Expanded program offerings and eight cross-disciplinary research areas offer more opportunities for future engineers to explore their interests than ever before. And despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, our students, faculty and staff are moving forward. Our success is collective, and I am grateful for the support of our alumni and friends that has made it possible.

Please enjoy reading about the wonderful things our community is accomplishing and connect with us on social media to stay up to date.

On, Wisconsin!

William J. Likos  
*Gary Wendt Professor and Department Chair*

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### Leading the way

Professor James Schauer is overseeing statewide COVID-19 testing efforts at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

[Read more](#)



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## Virtual learning

Assistant Professor Hannah Blum and PhD student Edward Sippel are creating new virtual reality learning modules for structural engineering students.

[Read more](#)

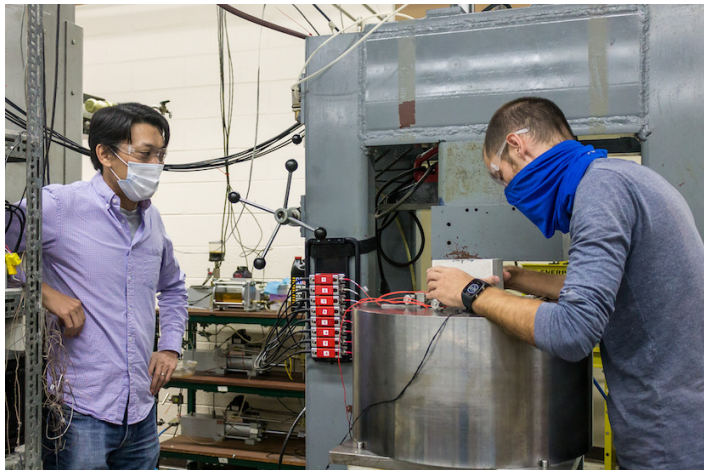


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## Stress reliever

Assistant Professor Hiroki Sone is researching an innovative new way to detect hidden stress in rocks deep within the earth for safer enhanced geothermal systems.

[Read more](#)



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## More headlines

- As climate change drives wetter weather, Assistant Professor Daniel Wright is leading a team to help Wisconsin [prepare its infrastructure](#) for a new normal.

- The Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory found that Wisconsin traffic experienced an [unprecedented drop](#) after Gov. Tony Evers' Safer at Home order in the spring.
- CEE students are learning to use land surveying equipment in a [safe, physically distanced outdoor lab](#) led by faculty associate Kelvin Santiago-Chaparro.
- Professor James Schauer is using his WARF professorship to [honor the trailblazing legacy](#) of the late Professor Emeritus Bill Boyle.
- The new [Innovation in CEE competition](#) is pushing students to find creative solutions to engineering challenges.



Assistant Professor Lucas Zoet is [using drones](#) to create highly-detailed maps of Lake Michigan shoreline and measure coastal erosion.



Cell phones could be the future of traffic monitoring. Professor Bin Ran won recognition for research into [using cellular data to observe traffic flow](#).

