On Friday, Mar. 4, Professor Emeritus Harold (Hal) Pritchett and Connie Kearney received recognition for their distinguished service to the university at Destination OSU, an event hosted each spring by the OSU Alumni Association, OSU Foundation, and OSU Athletics. Pritchett worked in CCE for 45 years and was instrumental in founding the Construction Engineering Management program. Since his retirement in 2002, Pritchett has been a familiar presence at CCE and has remained deeply involved with the school and the Construction Education Foundation.

Kearney, who began her studies at OSU, graduated from Creighton Law School in 1987. In addition to her many accomplishments through her practice, Kearney was the first woman commissioner of Clark County, Wash., and Kearney and her husband, Lee Kearney ‘63, are among the university’s most generous philanthropic leaders, who made a transformational gift supporting the renovation of Kearney Hall.
It's been a banner year for Beavers. Throughout the 2015-16 school year, CCE students earned top awards at national competitions. In February, two student teams won first place at the Geotechnical and Structural Engineering Congress held in Phoenix, Ariz. Mentored by faculty member Ben Mason, the GeoVideo student team of Youssef Bougataya, David Bailey, Rachel Adams, and Sharoo Shrestha placed first for their video, “Soil Structure Interaction During Earthquakes.” In the GeoPrediction competition, the team of Bougataya and Nathan Jones, advised by faculty member Armin Stuedlein, won first place for the event in which they predicted the deflection profile of a 90-foot-deep, tied-back excavation in downtown Seattle.

Also in February, CEM students continued their long tradition of excellent performance at the 29th Associated Schools of Construction Student Construction Management Competition. At the event held in Reno, Nev., the mechanical team earned first place and the multi-use and determining project risk teams received third place awards.

In March, the AGC student chapter received national recognition when they earned second place in the 2015 AGC Outstanding Student Chapter Contest. The Daily Journal of Commerce of Portland also named the chapter a 2016 DJC Newsmaker for their accomplishments, educational outreach activities, and volunteer efforts with Habitat for Humanity.

The accolades continued into April when the OSU ASCE student chapter earned top awards at the ASCE Pacific Northwest Student Conference at the University of Idaho. The concrete canoe team won first place in design paper, first place in final product, and second place overall. The steel bridge team took third place overall – qualifying for nationals for the third consecutive year – and the surveying team won second place overall. Additionally, the ASCE Committee on Student Members awarded the OSU student chapter with a letter of honorable mention for its activities. Only the top third of all ASCE student organizations receive the recognition nationally.

Congratulations, students!
FROM THE SCHOOL HEAD

It’s an exciting time for the School of Civil and Construction Engineering. Now that spring has arrived and graduation is just around the corner, it’s a great time to look back on the many accomplishments of this year and to look forward to next year’s opportunities. Students, faculty, and alumni made outstanding achievements and we are thrilled that students continued to excel in national competitions. These recognitions confirm the high level of excellence we see each day throughout Kearney, Covell, Merryfield, and Owen halls, and the student successes would not be possible without the constant work of our faculty, who are dedicated to helping students learn and achieve their goals.

In March, we celebrated the tremendous careers of alumni Dan Collins of Traylor Brothers, and Neil Fernando of Emerio Design, who received Oregon Stater awards, as well as Connie Kearney and Hal Pritchett who were recognized for their exceptional contributions to OSU. During the last year, CCE embarked on new initiatives in the area of catastrophic natural disaster preparedness. As part of the new endeavor, CCE connected resilience researchers with efforts at the O.H. Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory, presented campus lectures, and launched a new summer program to host ten undergraduates who will conduct research on resilient infrastructure. This year, we also made strides to improve undergraduate curriculum, hire new faculty members and improve our laboratories. Throughout the summer and beyond, we will continue to work toward a new curriculum that emphasizes communication and professional development. As we come to the end of the school year, we find ourselves looking forward already to the start of the next as CEM will celebrate its 50th year. As always, should you find yourself in Corvallis, please stop by to visit and view your class photo on the wall of Kearney Hall.

Jason Weiss
Head of the School of Civil and Construction Engineering
The Miles Lowell and Margaret Watt Edwards Distinguished Chair in Engineering
Director of the Kiewit Center for Infrastructure and Transportation Research

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KRISTINA MILAJ

I am evaluating and comparing the environmental impact of using wood in place of steel, concrete, or masonry in commercial construction in Oregon. During my research, I have had the opportunity to perform structural design, computer modeling, and help answer a question of great interest to many of us here in the Northwest.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOLLOWING GRADUATION?

After I graduate, I plan to work for an international structural consulting firm, enhance my engineering skills, and attain my PE and SE licensure. I want to promote sustainable development and seek innovative and collaborative approaches to problem solving, both at work and outside of my job.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY?

There are so many things I like about OSU, including the opportunity to make friends from all over the world, learn from and work with outstanding faculty, participate in abroad experiences and internships, and feel part of a great community. Besides, the campus is so beautiful during each season, come and see it for yourself!

WHAT ABOUT THE CORVALLIS COMMUNITY?

Corvallis is a beautiful and quiet college town, however, there are always events going on, you just have to ask. One of my favorite features of Corvallis is its outdoor culture, due to the proximity of its location to the coast and the mountains. This is a great place to enjoy and explore the beauty of the nature. The Corvallis community is extremely friendly, inspiring, and supportive, so students feel at home here.

WHY OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY?

The College of Engineering at OSU has a great reputation. Many of my mentors and teachers recommended it to me during my high school exchange program in Corvallis. Also, OSU offered many options in regard to programs of study, student organizations, and research areas.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING?

My aptitude for math and science and my desire to make the world a better place led me to engineering. Professional engineering practice is crucial for the well-being of a community and we can see that clearly from the role of our built environment and water, wastewater, energy, and transportation infrastructure into our daily lives. I chose the Structural Engineering program because it provided me with the opportunity to do the type of work I enjoyed the most and apply my skills to help solve problems in many different areas.

DESCRIBE YOUR RESEARCH.

My research is in the area of Life Cycle Assessment of structural building materials. More specifically,

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

On Thursday, April 28, Henry Petroski of Duke University presented his talk, “Infrastructure in Perspective,” to approximately 250 guests at the LaSells Stewart Center. The lecture was the second presentation of the CCE Distinguished Lecture Series, presented by Kiewit and the Construction Education Foundation.

Save the date of October 14, 2016 for the next lecture in the series. For more information, visit cce.oregonstate.edu/lecture.
**45TH ANNUAL CONTRACTORS’ NIGHT**

On Thursday, April 7, nearly 300 guests joined in celebration of CEM students, faculty, staff, and industry partners at the 45th Annual Contractors’ Night. CEM students received recognition for their superb performance at recent competitions, David Woods of the Beavers, Inc. presented the keynote address, and Professor David Trejo received the Dennis Marker Teacher of the Year award.

**OSU HOSTS TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE**

Earlier this spring, OSU hosted the region’s premier transportation event, the 2016 Northwest Transportation Conference. The event featured a theme of “Transportation Tools You Can Use on the Job," with more than 20 sessions, discussions, and events aimed at providing attendees with practical knowledge and tools. Faculty presenters from CCE included Sal Hernandez, Katharine Hunter-Zaworski, David Hurwitz, Michael Olsen, Armin Stuedlein, Haizhong Wang, and Jason Weiss.

Hernandez presented research on a safety data warehousing system and Hunter-Zaworski presented research on wheelchair and seating orientation on transit buses as well as regional passenger rail connections and the emerging public transportation modes concept. Hurwitz, who also serves as associate director of the Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium, moderated a session on innovations in right-of-way design. Accompanied by two of their student researchers, Alireza Kashani and Kamilah Buker, Hurwitz and Olsen presented on 3D virtual sight distance analysis using mobile LIDAR data. Stuedlein presented research on traffic sign and signal foundations subjected to wind loading and Wang moderated a session on systemic safety and disaster simulations in which he also presented research on post-earthquake life safety and mobility.

**HOLZENTHAL RECEIVES NSF FELLOWSHIP**

Elizabeth Holzenthal, a first year Ph.D. student in coastal and ocean engineering, was recently named a recipient of an NSF Graduate Fellowship, one of the premier fellowships awarded to graduate students in the U.S. Holzenthal, who is advised by faculty member David Hill, is examining storm surge and aims to develop an integrative model that combines engineering, environmental, social, and economic factors to evaluate the risk and resilience of hybrid surge reduction strategies. This project, with its unique position at the crux of this multifaceted challenge, will contribute to the development of a new generation of hazard engineering.

**COLLINS AND FERNANDO RECEIVE OREGON STATERS**

In March, CCE alumni Dan Collins, ’80 and Neil Fernando, ’97 received Oregon Stater awards. Collins of Traylor Brothers, Inc. was named to the Academy of Distinguished Engineers and Fernando, who owns Emerio Design, L.L.C. of Beaverton, Ore. was named to the Council of Outstanding Early Career Engineers. During their visit to campus, Collins and Fernando hosted a student forum, “Top 10 Tips for a Successful Career in Industry,” where they shared their advice and experience with students. Learn more about their careers and awards at engineering.oregonstate.edu/oregon-stater-awards.

**GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPO**

In March, 200 graduate students from five engineering schools presented their groundbreaking research at the annual Graduate Research Expo. The students presented their research posters to 250 guests in a large ballroom of the Portland Art Museum. The CCE grand prize poster presentation winners were geomatics student, Matt O’Banion, for “Comparison of Terrestrial Lidar and Structure from Motion Techniques for Assessment of Unstable Rock Slopes in Alaska” and transportation student Yue Ke, for “Determinants of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in Oregon.”

**CCE LAUNCHES NEW RESILIENCE EFFORTS**

In an effort to expand resilience research and efforts, CCE will offer a two-day short course, Cascadia Resilience, and a 2016 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program, Engineering Solutions for Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) Resilience. Cascadia Resilience will be offered July 14-15, 2016 with a purpose to provide engineering practitioners and related professionals with an in-depth understanding of hazards posed by the CSZ and identify effective solution technologies to build more resilient communities.

The SURF program will provide approximately 10 fellowships to support hands-on research toward increasing community resilience in response to CSZ earthquakes and tsunamis. More information can be found at cce.oregonstate.edu.