

Civil and Environmental Engineering

FROM THE CHAIR / Fall 2025

Dear colleagues, alumni, and friends,

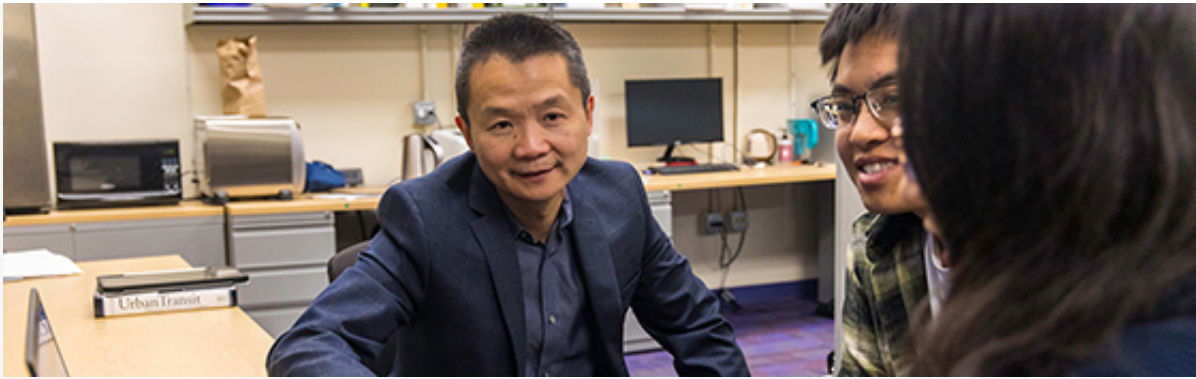
Our faculty, students, and alumni continue to push the boundaries of discovery and innovation, and I'm proud to highlight some of their recent achievements. From groundbreaking research and new academic programs to student-led projects and alumni impact, these stories reflect the energy and vision that drive our department forward.

This newsletter is both a celebration of our accomplishments and an invitation to stay **connected with us**. I hope you enjoy catching up on our news and feel proud of the vibrant community we are building together.



Yu (Marco) Nie

Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Family Chair
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
McCormick School of Engineering



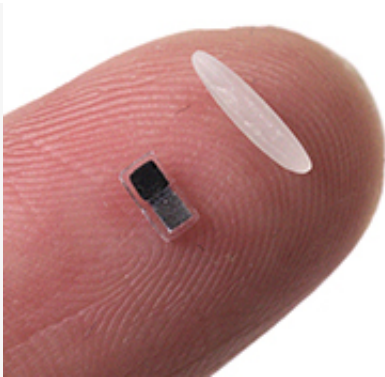
A Conversation with New Chair Marco Nie

In a Q&A, Nie outlines his vision to strengthen CEE's identity, expand interdisciplinary collaborations, and prepare engineers to tackle society's most pressing challenges.



Mahmassani Passes Away

Professor **Hani Mahmassani**, who passed away July 15 at age 69, will be remembered for his expertise in transportation logistics and ability to communicate charismatically and clearly to the public.



World's Smallest Pacemaker Is Activated by Light

The tiny device developed by Professor **Yonggang Huang** can be inserted with a syringe, and then dissolve after it's no longer needed. [VIDEO](#)



Bacteria Rewire Digestive Systems to Turn Plant Waste Into Power

A study from Professor **Ludmilla Aristilde** shows how bacteria juggle energy needs while digesting complex carbons.



Grad Spotlight: Ramirez Paves the Way in STEM and Dance

Kassie Ramirez graduated with a degree in civil and environmental engineering, becoming one of the first members of her family to earn a college diploma.

Department News

Professor **Zdeněk P. Bažant** won the **Michael P. Paidoussis Medal** from the Royal Society of Canada.

Professor **Yonggang Huang** and longtime collaborator **John Rogers** are the **namesakes of a new medal** awarded by the International Conference on Computational & Experimental Engineering and Sciences.

Professor **Alessandro Rotta Loria** received the **2025 Leonardo Da Vinci Award** from the Engineering Mechanics Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Ricaurte Vásquez Morales, administrator of the Panama Canal Authority, **delivered the 43rd Annual William A. Patterson Distinguished Transportation Lecture**, held May 7 at the Walter Athletics Center Auditorium.

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Why Floods Are Becoming More Dangerous and What We Can Do to Prevent Them

Professor **Aaron Packman** told Scripps News that more intense precipitation is overwhelming stormwater infrastructure. **VIDEO**



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