

Civil and Environmental Engineering

FROM THE CHAIR / Summer 2020

Dear friends and colleagues,

I no longer think that "unprecedented" adequately describes 2020. Nary a week goes by without an eye-popping statistic, policy announcement, or human rights infringement. Yet, despite a tumultuous spring, CEE students and faculty marched to a resoundingly successful finish to the academic year.

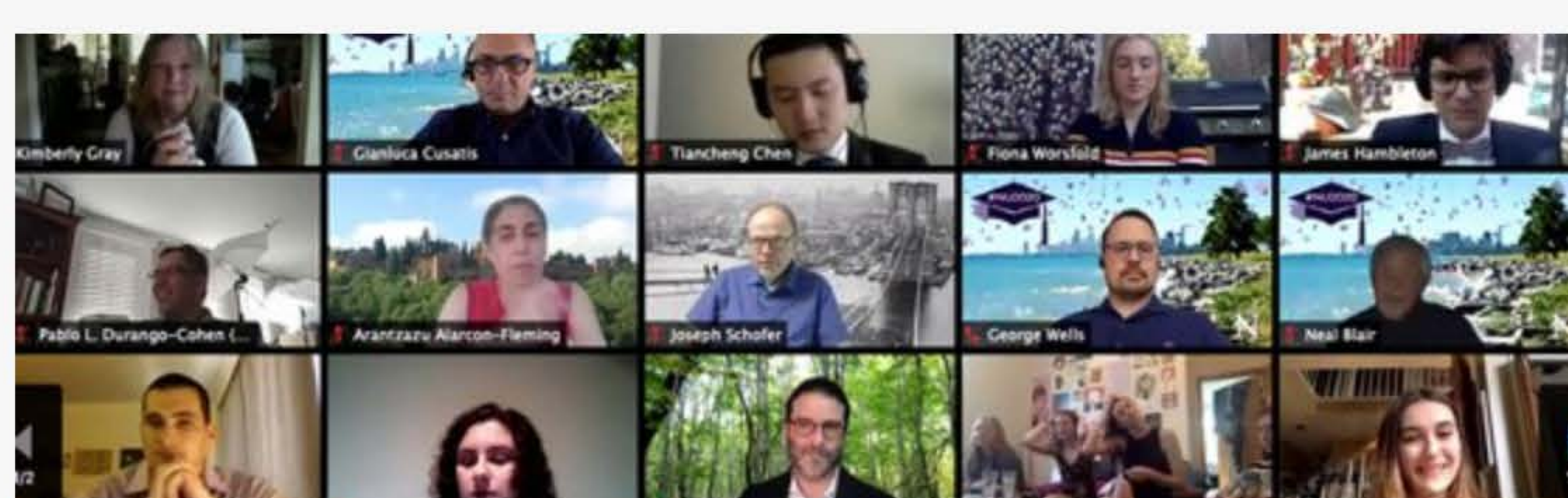
I never cease to be amazed by the innovative and resilient spirit of our students and faculty. Let me start by congratulating the CEE Class of 2020. It takes more than a pandemic quarantine to stifle the creative spirit of CEE students, as evidenced by their inventive material and structural designs described below. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, Professor Ange-Therese Akono illustrates the power of mechanics as she aims her talents at the design of new biomaterials. We are extremely proud of Professor Yonggang Huang who was recently elected to both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Please enjoy a socially-distanced summer and see you soon for an early start to fall quarter.



Kimberly Gray
Kay Davis Professor and
Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering
McCormick School of Engineering

CEE Celebrates Class of 2020



The department honored its graduating undergraduate, master's, and PhD students during a series of virtual events held as part of Northwestern's 162nd Commencement in June. As part of the celebration, nine seniors were recognized with department awards.

Read about graduation »

Huang Elected to the National Academy of Sciences and American Academy of Arts and Sciences



Professor Yonggang Huang was among 120 new members elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. He also joined seven other Northwestern faculty members in this year's class of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honorary societies.

Read about the honors »

Akono Awarded NIH Grant to Investigate Novel Patient-specific Bone Scaffolds



With the award, Professor Ange-Therese Akono will study novel functionally-graded materials for tissue regenerative engineering that are patient-specific, mitigate bone loss, and promote bone proliferation around the host bone structure.

Read about the work »

Department Launches New Minor in Architectural Engineering and Design



The new minor, which replaces the existing certificate program, reflects the department's expanded course offerings and increased student interest to explore modern architecture and engineering technologies and to examine historic architectural and engineering design.

Read about the program »

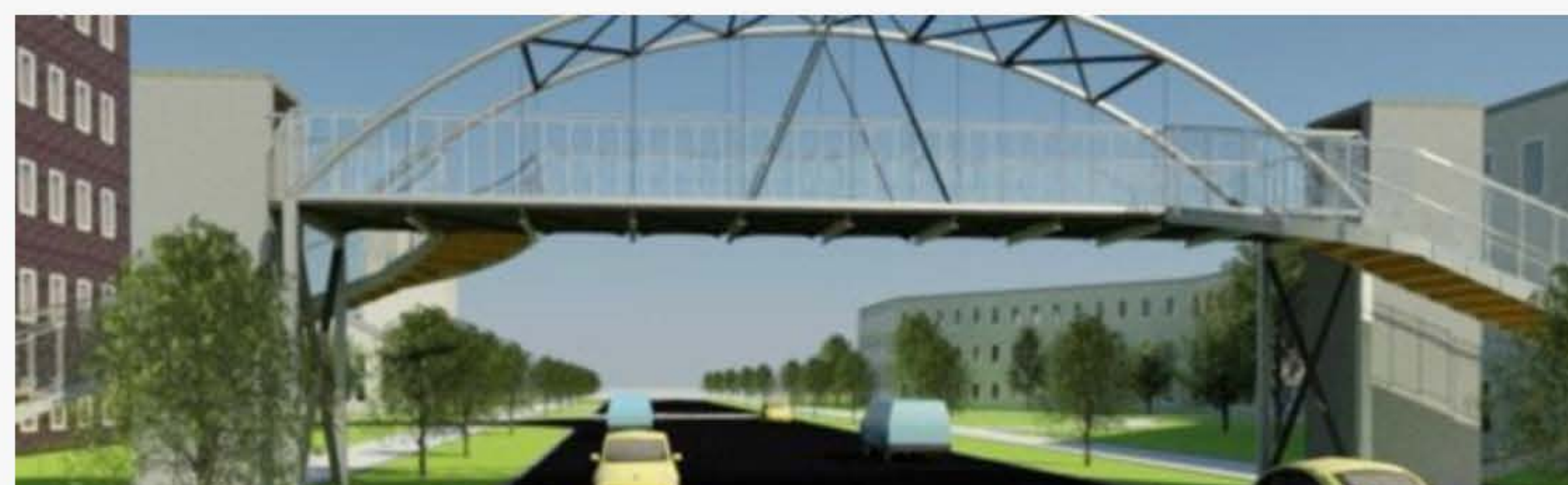
Graduate Students Win First Place at Illinois Water Environment Association Design Competition



PhD students Yechan Won and Haley Lewis and master's student Haotian Cai were recognized for designing a solution to membrane fouling, a process that disrupts water flow on surfaces in membrane technologies.

Read about the award »

No Stopping Student Creativity in Times of COVID-19



Co-taught by Professor Gianluca Cusatis and architects at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, graduate students in the three-course structural design sequence were challenged — while working remotely this spring — to use their skills in structural systems and optimization methods to design a new pedestrian bridge and enclosure for the Vandy Christie Tennis Center.

Read about the class »

Faculty News

Congratulations to Professor Karen Chou, who retires this summer after 10 years as assistant chair of CEE. She will become clinical full professor emerita.

Student Awards

Maya Cottongim was awarded the ACI Foundation Scholarship.

Maher Said won the Supply Chain Data Analytics Competition.

Zheifei Jin received a 2020 Geo-Institute Graduate Scholarship by the ASCE Illinois Section.

Pang (Devin) Shen received a 2020 Geo-Institute Undergraduate Scholarship by the ASCE Illinois Section.

FACTS & FIGURES

90
Years of research and education

6
National Academy of Engineering members

5
NSF Young Investigator Awards



Make a Gift Update Contact Info