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Fall 2007

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[www.drexel-civil.org](http://www.drexel-civil.org)

NEWLY UPDATED!

## Contacts

**Architectural Engineering**

**Program Director:**

- James Mitchell

**Environmental Engineering**

**Program Director:**

- Charles Haas

**Associate Department Head, Graduate:**

- Grace Hsuan

**Associate Department Head, Undergraduate:**

- Joseph Mullin

**Assistant to Department Head, Student Services:**

- Ken Holmes

## Did You Know?

- The department has 573 undergraduate and 59 graduate students currently enrolled.

Prepared by:  
Katie Morrison

## Monitoring the Burlington-Bristol Bridge

Partnering with Pennoni Associates, Drs. Franklin Moon, Joseph Martin, Joseph Mullin and Emin Aktan performed a detailed condition evaluation and behavior assessment of a specific connection detail on the Burlington-Bristol Bridge. Pennoni, one of the larger consulting companies in the nation according to the Engineering News-Record, and Drexel University have been exploring ways to develop a long-term synergistic academe-industry partnership. Drexel is one of the few centers of excellence in the nation with the ability to integrate and apply technology to real-life infrastructure problems, especially in relation to long-span bridges. The current work on the Burlington-Bristol Bridge is an exploration of how Drexel may partner with industry to serve infrastructure owners as they manage their engineered assets. The team's evaluation of the connection detail included an inspection, development of finite element models, sensor installation and data acquisition, load testing, data quality assurance, and the development of recommendations and conclusions. The group has also received the third year of a long-term contract with the FHWA NDE center to help evaluate the safety of bridges in West Virginia, a project that should continue through the fall of next year.



## Department Introduces Fellowship in Microbial Risk Assessment

Drs. Patrick Gurian, Charles Haas, and Hernando Perez received a grant of \$490,000 from the Department of Homeland Security to establish a fellowship program in microbial risk assessment. The mission of the Microbial Risk Assessment (MRA) Fellowship program is to train the next generation of homeland security professionals in microbial risk assessment. Students in the program will earn Masters degrees and gain expertise in the fields of microbiology, infectious disease, and bio-security through course work, research, and internship opportunities. For more information, please visit [www.drexel.edu/coe/cae/mra.asp](http://www.drexel.edu/coe/cae/mra.asp).

## Awards and Fellowships

Carolyn Conlee is a recipient of the 2007 Koerner Family Fellowship which will support her as she finishes her dissertation.

Nick Malasavage and Murat Hamderi are the recipients of the 2007 George Hill, Jr. Fellowship for the department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering. Each fellow will receive \$5,000 for the winter term, which is to go toward stipend or tuition support. The 2007 Hill Fellows will be formally recognized at this year's Welcome Back Reception on October 19<sup>th</sup> in the Bossone Lobby.

The '07-'08 GAANN fellows are Karen Joy, Information Studies; Jade Blackwood, Environmental Engineering; Ronnie Munoz, Civil Engineering; and Mark Weir, Environmental Engineering. GAANN fellows will participate in multi-disciplinary coursework in core disciplinary competencies, cross-disciplinary technical training in established and emerging technology, and management. For more information on GAANN visit [www.drexel.edu/coe/cae/gaann/gaann.asp](http://www.drexel.edu/coe/cae/gaann/gaann.asp).

## New Faces in the Department

The CAEE department welcomes Professor Louis DaSaro, Professor Franco Montalto, and Katie Morrison.

*Lou DaSaro* joined the department this fall term as an Auxiliary Associate Professor of Structural and Architectural Engineering. With over 30 years experience as a structural engineer, his specialties are explosion resistant design, failure analysis and retrofit of existing structures, and engineering education. In hopes of becoming largely independent of the energy grid, he's currently designing a retirement home to possibly include such green features as passive and active solar energy, wind energy, geothermal heat pumps and energy efficient structural design.

*Franco Montalto* comes to Drexel after a two-year fellowship at the Earth Institute at Columbia University, before which he was an adjunct professor at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City, where he also completed his Bachelor's degree. His Masters and PhD are from Cornell University's Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering. His current research in the fields of ecological restoration, urban stormwater management and green design, and the planning of water interventions in rural, dryland settings of the developing world.

*Katie Morrison* is our new research development coordinator and is a Drexel alumna. Previously she worked as a coordinator for Unlimited Dimensions Inc., a Philadelphia based events and marketing company. Katie also has freelance event experience most recently consulting on the Campus Philly Kick-Off, a music, sports, and college-life festival that had an estimated 20,000 people in attendance this year.