



CAEE Department Collaborates with I.I.T. Delhi and University of Sao Paulo

A group of CAEE Department researchers participated in microbial risk assessment workshops with international researchers, faculty, and students. In June, CAEE faculty **Dr. Patrick Gurian**, **Dr. Charles Haas**, and **Dr. Mira Olson** and School of Public Health Faculty Dr. Arthur Frank, Dr. Shannon Marquez, and Dr. Hernando Perez hosted faculty from the Indian Institute of Technology at Delhi, the Indian Institute of Public Health, and the Indian National Environmental Engineering Research Institute during their visit to Drexel. This was the first of five exchange visits planned as part of the project "Building Resources for Human and Ecological Risk Assessment" which is sponsored through the [Obama Singh Initiative](#). The faculty collaborated on the development of materials for risk assessment courses and on identifying directions for joint research efforts. **Dr. Gurian** and **Dr. Haas** and post-doc **Dr. Michael Ryan** were among the faculty at an NSF-sponsored workshop on microbial risk assessment held at the University of Sao Paulo in Sao Paulo, Brazil in July. The workshop trained early career scientists including junior faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and advanced graduate students (including CAEE doctoral student **Kerry Hamilton**) from throughout the Americas in quantitative microbial risk assessment methods, and applied these methods to a variety of case studies. The curricula will be taught next summer in India, as part of an ongoing effort to consolidate international knowledge of quantitative microbial risk assessment.

Dr. Robert Brehm, PE—Philadelphia Building Collapse

Dr. Robert Brehm, PE Associate Teaching Professor in the CAEE Department, provided his expertise to many media outlets in response to the building collapse at 22nd and Market Streets in Philadelphia (June 2013). [WHYY Radio Times](#), [Good Morning America](#), and [6ABC](#) are some of the media outlets where he was featured. He testified before the Pennsylvania House Labor & Industry Committee and the House Urban Affairs Committee on state legislation increasing demolition standards in Philadelphia and other municipalities. He also participated in a recent panel discussion before the Special Investigating Committee on Demolition Practices in Philadelphia and will serve as a consultant to City Council for modification of demolition practices in the City's Building Code. Dr. Brehm's expertise comes with over 35 years as a professional construction engineer associated with over one billion dollars of construction and has also provided expert testimony on engineering and construction practices in both Federal and State courts.



Dr. Charles Haas—AEESP Fellow



Dr. Charles Haas, Department Head of the CAEE Department and LD Betz Professor of Environmental Engineering, has been designated as a Fellow of the [Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors \(AEESP\)](#) at the biennial conference during the concluding banquet held in Golden, Colorado in July. Haas is one of an inaugural class of five fellows of this organization, which is comprised of more than a 1,000 faculty in all Environmental Engineering programs in the United States. He was cited for his contributions to research, service to the association, and education. Haas is a past board member and treasurer of AEESP. He has pioneered the development of quantitative microbial risk assessment for water, sanitation, air and public health protection, as well as developed innovative methods for analysis and design of disinfection systems.

Student News

Adam Regnier, a doctoral student advised by **Dr. Jin Wen**, gave an invited presentation: "Automated Fault Detection and Diagnosis in AHU-VAV Systems", A. Regnier, J. Wen, and X. Yang, Drexel University, Intelligent Building Operation Workshop, June 20-22, 2013, Boulder, CO

Jared Langevin, a doctoral student advised by **Dr. Jin Wen**, will be featured in the upcoming issue of the [ASHRAE](#) newsletter, Insights. The Society recognizes Jared for his exemplary research titled: Human Behavior & Low Energy Architecture Linking Environmental Adaptation, Personal Comfort, and Energy Use in the Built Environment, which received an ASHRAE Grant-in-Aid award.

In June, a group of Drexel students and faculty from the College of Engineering spent a day visiting three locations applicable to water treatment processes. The group spent part of the trip visiting two Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) locations: the Belmont Water Treatment Plant and the Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant and then visited the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. Faculty in attendance were: **Dr. Joseph Martin**, **Dr. Mira Olson**, **Dr. Christopher Sales**, **Dr. Kimberly DiGiovanni**, and **Dr. Richard Cairncross (CBE)**. This trip allowed students to see the application of processes taught in class as well as the natural treatment system at the Heinz Refuge, where a Marsh Machine recycles waste water treated through a vegetated system.