

Civil and Architectural Engineering

E-NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Dutch royals visit the University of Miami

College of Engineering faculty, including Associate Professors Prannoy Suraneni and Landolf Rhode-Barbarigos and Professor of Practice Esber Andiroglu, participated in discussions during the visit by King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, highlighting opportunities for collaboration in water-related engineering.



Concrete innovation supports coral restoration

An interdisciplinary team, including civil and architectural engineering associate professor Prannoy Suraneni, created engineered concrete tiles that significantly improved the survival of young corals. By modifying the chemistry of materials already used in coral nurseries, the team showed a fourfold increase in early-stage coral survival.



Engineering Collaboration Drives Innovation Through U-LINK

The University of Miami's U-LINK program is driving interdisciplinary engineering research that tackles challenges like coastal resilience. Faculty members, Landolf Rhode-Barbarigos and Prannoy Suraneni, are leading innovations such as the SEAHIVE system, designed to reduce protect coastlines, as well as low-carbon concrete.



Algae biochar project wins Climate Action Award

Three civil engineering doctoral students, Jasmine Rodriguez, Farzad Rezaeicherati, and Sevil Ozsut, working in Ali Ghahremaninezhad's lab, have been named winners of this year's Volo Foundation Climate Action Award, receiving \$20,000 for their innovative algae biochar project.



Concrete Canoe

Every year, students in the University of Miami's American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) Student Chapter design, build, and race a concrete canoe, putting their engineering knowledge, teamwork, and performance-driven design skills to the test. Watch the behind the scenes of the students building and racing at the annual competition.



Students Collaborate Internationally on Slope Stability Projects

A Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) module was integrated into the CAE 370 Geotechnical Engineering course led by Professor in Practice Derin Ural this spring, connecting students with peers from Universidad del Valle de Guatemala to collaborate on slope stability analysis projects.



American Concrete Institute Leaders Visit University of Miami

Anton Schindler, American Concrete Institute vice president, and Mike Tholen, managing director of professional development, visit the University of Miami.



ASCE Hosts Gala for Students, Alumni and Industry Leaders

ASCE members gathered at Cebada rooftop in Coral Gables for their gala, bringing together students, alumni, faculty, and industry partners for an evening of networking and celebration.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



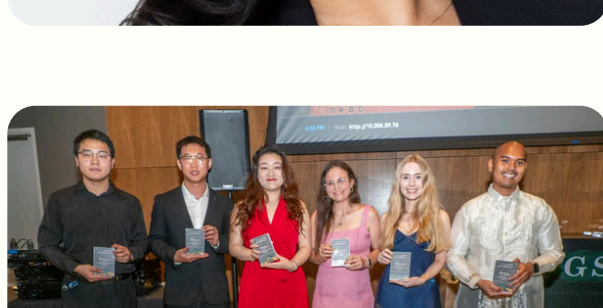
Seven Pillars Earns Recognition at Senior Design Expo

Seven Pillars earned multiple honors, including the Best Civil and Architectural Engineering Project and the People's Choice Award at the College of Engineering Senior Design Expo. Partnering with Publix, the student team reimagined a mixed-use development anchored by the supermarket, designing civil site work, structural systems, and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure.



Bahar Arian Earns Bertold E. Weinberg Scholarship

Bahar Arian, a civil engineering student with a concentration in structural engineering, has been named a 2026-2027 Bertold E. Weinberg Scholarship recipient. Awarded by the American Concrete Institute, the scholarship supports students pursuing full-time studies in concrete and honors Weinberg's long-standing leadership of the program.



Ziheng Geng Named Academic Excellence, Leadership and Service Award Recipient

Doctoral student Ziheng Geng has received the 2026 Academic Excellence Award from the Graduate Student Association. The award recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement through research, publications, and innovation.



Chi Epsilon Welcomes New Spring Inductees

Allison Melvin, Maritza Webster, Nabila Osman and Cynthia Ferro have been inducted into Chi Epsilon, the civil engineering honor society. Founded in 1922, Chi Epsilon recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, character, practicality and sociability, with members ranked in the top third of their class.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS



Celebrating Student Success

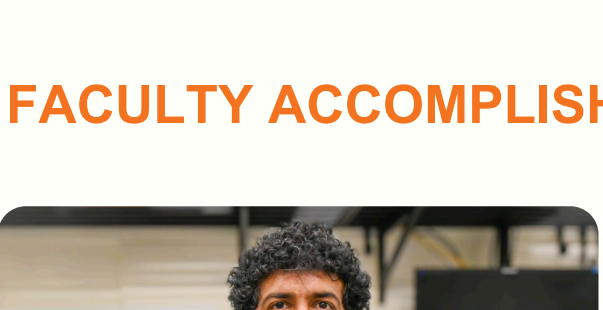
Outstanding students were recognized across all class levels. Ahmad Rasul Muhammad and Justin Craig Muckelvane were named outstanding freshmen in architectural engineering and civil engineering, respectively; Giada Ann Roti and Ian Alfred Franklin were honored as outstanding sophomores; Luciana Galvez and Devin Thomas were recognized as outstanding juniors; and Blake Anthony Sandoval and Ashlyn Noelle Winslow received outstanding senior honors in architectural engineering and civil engineering. Allison Nicole Melvin and Priscilla Taylor Cevallos received the leadership award, and Mackenzie Taylor Howell was recognized with the master of science student award.



Department Honors Faculty With Cane Awards

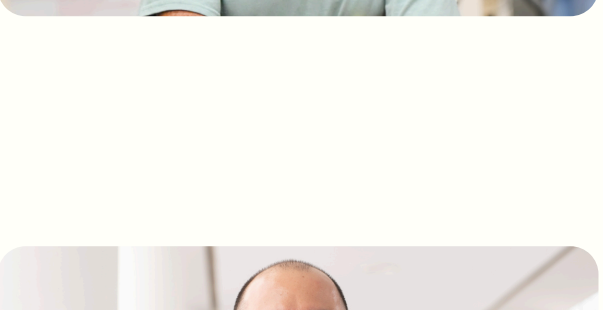
Faculty in the Department were recognized with multiple Cane Awards for excellence in leadership, teaching, research and service. Landolf Rhode-Barbarigos received the Cane Champion Award for his leadership in graduate education and interdisciplinary resilience initiatives. Derin Ural was honored with the Cane Mentor Award for her commitment to teaching and student engagement. Ali Ghahremaninezhad and Prannoy Suraneni received the Cane Innovator Award for advancing research in infrastructure materials. Luis Ruiz Pestana earned the Cane Rising Star Award for his early career achievements, including a National Science Foundation CAREER Award. Gang Wang received the Cane Pinnacle Award for outstanding performance in research, teaching and service.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Prannoy Suraneni

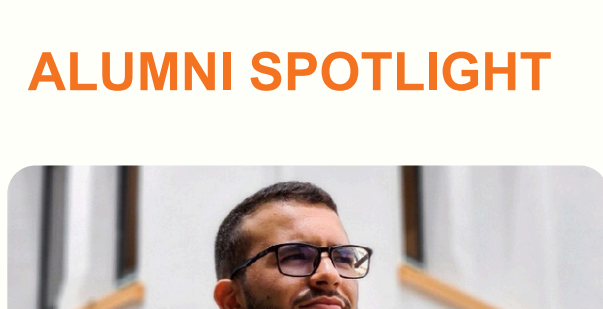
Prannoy Suraneni was named chair of American Concrete Institute Committee 231 on Properties of Concrete at Early Ages. He was also named a corresponding author on a review by [RILEM TC 309-MCP examining test methods for carbon dioxide mineralization in cement-based materials](#). The study highlights how carbon dioxide can be stored as solid carbonates in construction materials and reviews common measurement methods, including thermogravimetric and combustion analysis, along with their advantages and limitations.



Landolf Rhode-Barbarigos

Landolf Rhode-Barbarigos has been named a [2026 Research Mentoring Champion Award](#) recipient by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship. The award recognizes faculty who serve as advocates for research mentoring, raising awareness of its importance and inspiring others to engage as mentors. Recipients are selected for their lasting impact in fostering a culture of mentorship and advancing research mentoring across the academic community.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Sofiane Amroun

After earning his doctor of philosophy in civil engineering this May, Sofiane Amroun will join Queens Carbon, a startup focused on scaling carbon-neutral cementitious materials, as a research and development scientist in New Jersey.