From the Director

Classes are back in session here at MSU and campus is bustling with excitement as we commence the new school year. The upcoming semester holds new and exciting projects and opportunities for CUIRE that will be shared with you in this issue.

This summer took me to China to visit the China University of Geosciences where I made arrangements for collaborations with them.

In May we held a pipebursting school that was well received by everyone who attended. This was the first pipebursting school CUIRE has offered and its success promises that there will be more to come.

CUIRE has been fortunate enough to have gotten two new funded research projects, both dealing with asset management.

Also, I would like to extend a personal welcome to four new members of the CUIRE Board, Mike Hicks from the City of Fort Wayne, James Baglier from V-TAC Group, Jeff Iwasaki-Higbee from Eckard Brandes, and Gary McAleenan from Peninsular Technologies. We know that Mike, James, Jeff and Gary will be great new additions to the CUIRE family, and offer new insight to our research and industry objectives.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Currently @ CUIRE.

Best Regards,

Mohammad Najafi

In This Issue:

• Partnering with China
  Visit to China brings new research opportunities for CUIRE

• New Research Projects for the Fall
  Asset Management and Sustainable Infrastructure are on the agenda this year

• May Pipebursting School
  Several attendees make this first pipebursting school a success

Spring blooms on MSU’s Campus

• Attention Board Members
  If you have a story about your products, services, or projects, please e-mail it to us and we will do our best to include it in future issues of Currently at CUIRE.
Another very exciting endeavor for CUIRE is the recent partnership with China University of Geosciences. Dr. Najafi visited the University this past summer to create relations with their program, and an agreement proposal is currently being created for exchange of materials in education and research publications between MSU and China University of Geosciences. Additional exchanges will include faculty and research scholars and students, as well as create joint research and meetings for education, technical assistance, and conferences and short courses in China and the USA. Future plans for the agreement include offering a two day trenchless technology conference in Wuhan in May of 2006, exchange faculty and students between the two universities, and create a short course for Chinese industries to attend a two week training in trenchless technology at MSU. The course at MSU will be intensive in English training, and include several site visits to trenchless manufacturers.
New Research Projects

Critical Action Plan for Securing a Sustainable Infrastructure in Michigan

CUIRE is teaming up with the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) for a joint research project with MSU Land Use Program titled "Critical Action Plan for Securing a Sustainable Infrastructure in Michigan." This study is a continuation of research done by CUIRE last fall, "The Effects of Renewing Underground Utilities for Better Use of Land in Michigan." This study found several problem points regarding Michigan’s infrastructure and land use that need to be addressed. It is crucial that Michigan cities adopt a cost-effective short- and long-term infrastructure management plan to fulfill the need of an operational infrastructure in its main cities and townships. The second phase of this research has four objectives: 1) Development of facts on the state of the infrastructure in Michigan in terms of condition, inventory, management, and funding; 2) Fact sheets for politicians, public works officials, and the general public; 3) Education/Outreach activities for politicians, public works officials, and the general public; 4) Identification of Michigan governmental and non-governmental resources that can be used in sustainable infrastructure management. Overall, CUIRE and IPPSR want to bring the issue of underground infrastructure with all the dimensions of its problems to the forefront for Michigan politicians, public works officials, and the general public. If you have an interest in assisting with this research or would like further information on it, please contact the CUIRE office.

An Asset Management Approach for Drainage Infrastructure & Culverts

The Midwest Regional Transportation Center (MRUTC) has granted Michigan State University (MSU) along with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), University of Cincinnati, and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) the proposal titled "An Asset Management Approach for Drainage Infrastructure and Culverts." The research seeks to develop inventory and condition assessment protocols and business rules for culvert structures and validate and optimize those protocols and business rules on the basis of field pilot studies in Michigan and Ohio. There is a strong need to develop field protocols and operational business rules for inventory data collection and management and inspection of drainage infrastructures in terms of type of data to be collected, frequency of inspection, and analysis of reporting mechanisms. It is hoped that the results of this research will enable MDOT, ODOT and other DOT’s to launch optimized drainage structure asset management programs that would significantly reduce field problems and contribute to a comprehensive asset management program including bridges, pavement, drainage infrastructure systems, and other transportation infrastructure elements.

Pipebursting School a Success

The pipebursting school held last May was well received by the 15+ people that attended. This was the first pipebursting school CUIRE conducted, and the schedule included an introduction to pipebursting and its background, planning for pipebursting, design and construction phase, pipe materials, what an engineer and inspector needs to know, and also a pipebursting field training. Special thanks to our speakers at the course, Ben Cocogliato, Troy Freed, Nate Hrabosky, Dr. Mohammad Najafi, Mark Spelder, and Tom Stanojevic. The success of the pipebursting school may have us doing it again next year!
Current Officers:

PRESIDENT: Suzie von Bernuth
VICE PRESIDENT: Rory Andreski
SECRETARY: Jennifer Rheaume
TREASURER: Jeff Mehall
FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Mohammad Najafi

The NASTT Student Chapter at MSU is pleased to announce its scholarship recipient for the year of 2005: Matthew Paul Merrill. Matthew displays several qualities that make him worthy of this $1,000 scholarship, and we are pleased to honor him with it.

Ben Cocogliato spoke recently at an NASTT Student Chapter meeting where he spoke about Pipe Bursting and Pipe Ramming.

Solution Resource

Solution Resource has been active in the trenchless pipeline renewal technology industry since 1960 developing the United States market place to accept “new” No-Dig technology for all but five of those years. Solution Resource has 25 years of experience in the tunneling industry and 20 years of experience using cured-in-place trenchless pipeline renewal technology.

The educational process used to inform and expand the use of No-Dig technologies include using educational forums at college civil engineering facilities to conduct seminars as well as face-to-face technical presentations during “Brown-Bag” lunches at consulting engineers’ offices and end-user facilities. Also, Solution Resource presents technical application papers and exhibits at major trade conferences throughout the United States.

Solution Resource specializes in training trenchless pipeline renewal business developers to use fundamental and proven techniques and philosophies to obtain a profitable business that will insure their company will attain their set goals.

Our Apologies!

Solution Resource’s profile was left out of the last Newsletter because we did not have it, but we are happy to publish it now! If your company’s profile has yet to be published in our newsletter, please send it to Dr. Mohammad Najafi at najafi@msu.edu and we will make sure it gets into the next issue!