

## CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT NEWS

*Manos Maragakis, Professor and Chair*

Continuing its pursuit of excellence in teaching, research and public service, the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department initiated a new program in Transportation Engineering in the Fall semester of 2004. The goal is to offer new education possibilities to our students including state-of-the-art courses and research projects and to serve the growing needs of the state and eventually the nation in the area of transportation. Transportation Engineering is a growing interdisciplinary field including various aspects of engineering and sciences. Transportation engineers and researchers may come from areas such as Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, Social Sciences, and Economics. In general, Transportation Engineering involves all aspects of planning, functional design, operation, and management of facilities for any mode of transportation. However, *Traffic Engineering*, one of the major areas of Transportation Engineering and one of the emphasis areas of our program, normally deals with the surface transportation modes, such as

highways and arterials, public transit, pedestrians and bicycles. Since fall 2004, new transportation-related courses have been introduced in the curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. These courses include: Transportation Engineering, Traffic Engineering, Traffic Simulation, and Transportation Systems Management and Operations. There are currently five students enrolled in our graduate program, two are pursuing M.S. and three are pursuing Ph.D. degrees. They are working on a variety of research projects sponsored by the Nevada Department of Transportation and the California Department of Transportation. As the program grows, we envision new partnerships with local and federal government agencies and private companies that will increase

the opportunities for our students and will contribute to the solution of local and national transportation infrastructure issues. Assistant Professor Zong Tian, a well recognized expert in Transportation Engineering who joined our department in fall 2004, is leading this program.



The Transportation Group