

Norfolk Southern Corporation's gift sponsors Hay seminars

Norfolk Southern Corporation has made a \$20,000 gift to the Railroad Engineering Program. The gift includes sponsorship of the William W. Hay Railroad Engineering Seminars, which provide a venue for railroad professionals, academics and railroad engineering students to speak at the University of Illinois on topics of importance to rail transportation.

"We wanted to expand our recruiting activities and get our name out to more students," says Ricky Morris, Manager of College and Professional Recruiting for Norfolk Southern.



In addition to sponsoring the Hay seminar series, Norfolk Southern contributed to this year's series by presenting one of the lectures. In February,

Jeffrey McCracken and Chuck Johnson of Norfolk Southern spoke on restoring Norfolk Southern rail service to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Other seminars presented this year included "The Challenges of Managing Railway Capacity" by Mike Franke of AMTRAK, "Steel Railway Bridge Fatigue and the Evolution of Railway Car Loadings" by Stephen Dick of Hanson Professional Services, and "The Balancing Act—the Fine Art of Using Unbalance to Maximize the Efficiency of Railroad Infrastructure" by Bob Kollmar of HDR. In addition to educat-

ing current railroad engineering students, the seminars may help attract new ones, Morris says.

"For students who are already interested in railroading, it helps them understand more fully some of the issues that are presently facing the industry," Morris says. "Offering a wide range of topics provides an opportunity to attract students who may not already have an interest in railroads. There may be certain topics that would pique their interest."

"Several graduates of the U of I Railroad Engineering Program have gone to work for NS in the past few years and all appear to be doing well and enjoying their jobs," says Christopher Barkan, Associate Professor and Director of the Railroad Engineering Program. "We are extremely pleased that NS is supporting the program and enhancing our ability to attract and educate the railroad engineering professionals of tomorrow."

The seminar series is named for Professor William W. Hay, who spent over 30 years on the faculty at the University of Illinois teaching railway civil engineering. After World War II, the University of Illinois was the only major institution providing instruction in railroad engineering and many of the senior personnel in the railroad industry today studied under Hay. He was the academic leader in railroad engineering for more than a quarter century and wrote two highly successful textbooks, "Railroad Engineering" (1953, updated 1982) and "An Introduction to Transportation Engineering" (1961, updated 1977).

Norfolk Southern operates approximately 21,200 route miles in 22 eastern states, the District of Columbia and Ontario, Canada.

For more information on the Hay seminars, visit <http://sftp.cce.uiuc.edu/research/railroad/>. ■

Barkan named George Krambles Faculty Fellow

Associate Professor Christopher P. L. Barkan, director of the Railroad Engineering Program, has been appointed the George Krambles Faculty Fellow. Support for the faculty honor was made possible by a \$500,000 endowment by the George Krambles Transportation Scholarship Fund, presented in 2003. In addition to a named faculty position, the gift has also provided continued financial support for the rail program.



Chris Barkan

George Krambles, who died in 1999, was a 1936 alumnus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) who dedicated his career to the advancement of urban transportation engineering. He is best known for his leadership of the Chicago Transit Authority, from which he retired in 1980. His establishment of the Skokie Swift initiated a new era in commuter rail. Krambles established the George Krambles Transportation Scholarship Fund upon his retirement from the CTA. Over the years, more than 100 students have received scholarships from the fund.

"I'm both flattered and humbled," Barkan says. "George Krambles is one of the icons of 20th century public transportation."

The Krambles Fund's 2003 gift to the department is the largest ever received for the Railroad Engineering Program. Funds attached to the Faculty Fellow position will be used to enhance and expand the educational opportunities offered to students in the rail and transit program, for example, funding student travel to rail and transit conferences and field visits. The funds will also continue to support the George Krambles Distinguished Lecture series, which brings a prominent speaker on rail or transit to campus each year.

"I am confident that the sort of things we will now be able to do—encourag-

ing and enhancing student interest and education in rail and transit—are exactly what George Krambles hoped for when he established the fund," Barkan says.

Barkan's selection as the Krambles Faculty Fellow is an acknowledgment of his key role in strengthening the Railroad Engineering Program, says Norm Carlson, president of the George Krambles Transportation Scholarship Fund Board of Directors. In addition, he says, Barkan's research in the handling of hazardous chemicals is considered by the rail industry to be a particularly critical focus in the post-9/11 era.

"He's accomplishing things, he's gained excellent recognition within the industry for the work he's doing, and he's in a position of trust in the industry," Carlson says.

Under Barkan's leadership, the 100-year-old Railroad Engineering Program has grown and gained increased respect from industry professionals, says Mike Franke (MS '71), Senior Director of Planning and Business Development for AMTRAK and a member of the Krambles Fund Board of Directors.

"His program is generally recognized as being very, very valuable in an industry where a lot of people have retired and a lot more retirees are just around the corner," Franke says. "The railroads are actually competing now for some of his students."

As director of the rail program, Barkan has principal responsibility for the railroad engineering research and academic programs. He teaches classes in railroad technology and engineering and serves as the director of the Association of American Railroads' Affiliated Laboratory at UIUC. His research is focused on railroad safety and risk analyses with particular emphasis on derailment prevention, tank car design and hazardous materials transport. He is an author or editor of more than 70 papers, reports or books on railroad hazardous materials risk, tank car safety and environmental and energy efficiency subjects. ■

Memories, gratitude prompt alumnus' gift for scholarships

When Kevin Dulle (BS '81) was a junior in the department, his father passed away unexpectedly of lung cancer. Through his grief, Kevin was forced to tackle a new problem: how to pay for the rest of his college education. He began working 30 hours a week and struggled to maintain his grade point average.

"I was working at a bar at one point," Dulle says. "I wouldn't get home until 4 or 5 in the morning, and then I had a calculus class at 8 a.m. ... There was one point when I didn't have a quarter to my name; I couldn't even play a pinball machine. I even applied for food stamps at that time and got turned down."

Dulle did finish his degree, graduating with a major in construction management and a double minor in foundation engineering and environmental engineering. Today he owns a general contracting company, DU-CON Inc., based in Wentzville, Mo., the community in which he and his wife, Carey, reside. The company does design, con-



Anthony G. Dulle



Marcella C. Dulle

struction, maintenance and operation on a range of projects, specializing in water and wastewater treatment plants. The couple has a grown child, Robyn.

But Dulle hasn't forgotten his financial hardship during college. A desire to help current students prompted he and Carey to establish a new scholarship fund to assist current students on the road to becoming civil engineers. The fund also will help the Dulle's memorialize Kevin's parents, who he says always encouraged their four children to pursue higher education. The Anthony G. and Marcella C. Dulle Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships to civil engineering students from Clinton County, Ill., where Dulle grew up.

Anthony and Marcella Dulle were active members of their community and devoted parents to their four children, Judith, James, Ronald and Kevin, the youngest. Anthony worked as a carpenter for all four high schools in Clinton County. With his and Marcella's encouragement, all four of their children earned college degrees. Marcella passed away in 2004.

"I think it's the best school in the country, if not the world," he says. ■