

# Hanson Inc. gift will help expand, improve rail program

Hanson Professional Services Inc. has pledged \$150,000 over five years in support of the Railroad Engineering Program. The gift will be pooled with other funds to support the expansion of the railroad program and will help fund a new, non-tenured



position in Railroad Engineering. Along with several Class One railway companies, Hanson also will work with the department on research and development projects, present guest lectures, and mentor students.

The company's continuing commitment to the University and a desire to advance the field of railroad engineering prompted

the gift, says Sergio "Satch" Pecori (BS 73, MS 74), P.E., president and chief executive officer of Hanson Professional Services Inc.

"Our founder, Walter Hanson, has close ties to the U of I and many of our employees are alumni," Pecori says. "We have built our employee-owned company around our hardworking, intelligent engineers and scientists, many of whom have attended U of I."

Hanson Professional Services Inc. is a full-service, national, employee-owned consulting firm with more than 375 employ-

**"We have built our firm around our smart, hardworking engineers and scientists, many of whom have attended U of I."**

ees in 14 offices nationwide and annual revenues of about \$60 million. The firm's founder, department alumnus and former faculty member Walter Hanson (MS 47), founded the company in 1954 as Walter E. Hanson & Associates, a small bridge design engineering firm based in Springfield, Ill. Hanson had spent nine years on the faculty

in the geotechnical area.

The company hopes this gift in support of railroad engineering education will meet a need for the industry and serve to educate the company's future employees, Pecori says.

"Another significant factor is that the company is very involved in railroad projects around the country, including Alaska," says Pecori. "We believe this will encourage education in railroad engineering and therefore advance the field. Our goal is to promote educational opportunities in this field, mentor students and support the railroad engineering profession."

"This generous support from Hanson represents a new type of partnership between the profession and academia," says Professor and Head Robert H. Dodds Jr. "We applaud this innovative thinking at Hanson which will lead to more students pursuing careers in the rail engineering industry."

For more information about Hanson, visit <http://www.hanson-inc.com>. For more information about the Railroad Engineering Program, visit <http://sftp.cce.uiuc.edu/research/railroad/>.

## Alumnus Walter E. Hanson inducted into newly created Illinois Engineering Hall of Fame

The founder and chairman emeritus of Hanson Professional Services Inc., Walter E. Hanson (MS 47), P.E., S.E., in October was inducted into the Illinois Engineering Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Illinois Engineering Council.

The newly created Illinois Engineering Hall of Fame honors outstanding engineers in various fields of engineering who have worked as a manager or practitioner, established ties in Illinois, demonstrated significant engineering achievements, and served the engineering profession and community.

In addition to his master's degree

from U of I, Hanson holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University. He served on the civil engineering faculty at U of I in the late 1940s and early 1950s. At that time, he co-authored "Foundation Engineering," a textbook that has been translated into numerous languages and dialects. Hanson continues to write articles, sponsor engineering scholarships, speak at University events and encourage engineer participation in educa-



Walt Hanson

tional forums.

The firm Hanson founded in 1954, now Hanson Professional Services Inc., has completed award-winning projects around the world.

Hanson has maintained active memberships in 15 professional and technical societies, serving in numerous leadership positions.

Hishonors have included the American Society of Civil Engineers Honorary Member Award. In 1982 he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the department.