

Doctoral Students



Victor Nakano. *Ph.D. Candidate* in the School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette. Victor was born in Kirkland, Washington and received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1991. Commissioned as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Officer, he has served in numerous assignments at the platoon, company, and battalion levels. In 1997, he earned his M.S. in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri-Rolla and his P.E. license. Additionally, Victor earned M.S. degrees in Structural Engineering, and Construction Engineering and Management from Stanford University in 2000. Subsequently, he served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering at West Point. Following this assignment, Victor worked on the U.S. Army's Future Combat Systems Program and was selected as a Uniformed Army Scientist and Engineer. In Fall 2005, he began his graduate studies at Purdue. Victor is an active duty Army Major, and is pursuing doctoral research in developing a design assessment system to protect buildings from chemical and biological threats.

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Reid Vander Schaaf. *Ph.D. Student* in the School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette. Reid was born in Orange City, Iowa, and received his B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1992. Commissioned as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Officer, he has served in numerous assignments at the platoon, company, and battalion levels. In 1997, he earned his P.E. license while attending the U.S. Army Engineer Advance Course. Additionally, Reid earned M.S. degrees in Structural Engineering, and Construction Engineering and Management from Stanford University in 2000. Subsequently, he served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering at West Point. Following this assignment, Reid served as the Deputy, System Engineering Division, Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS), a \$1 Billion U.S. Army R&D program. His last assignment before he began his graduate studies at Purdue in the Fall of 2005 as a Uniformed Army Scientist and Engineer was as the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) Product Manager. . He is currently pursuing research in the area of organizational decision-making and infrastructure project selection using a hierarchical Systems-of-Systems (SoS) framework that can be used as a unifying procedure to discuss, frame, and develop methodologies to model complex systems.

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Maria Lourdes Peralta Frías. *Ph.D. Student* in the School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette. Maria was born in Chitre, Herrera, Republic of Panama and received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from the Technological University of Panama in 1996. In 2000, Maria was selected to participate in the Fulbright Faculty Development Program, administrated by the Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas (LASPAU). Through this program she earned her M.S.C.E degree (specializing in Construction Engineering and Management) from Purdue University in 2002. Subsequently, she joined the Faculty of the Civil Engineering Department at the Technological University of Panama, as an Assistant Professor. In 2006, Maria was awarded a Scholarship from the Excellence Scholarship Program, sponsored by the National Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT). This program is an initiative of the Panamanian government to improve the academic standards of Panamanian professors and researchers in the fields of science and technology. In Fall 2006, she began her doctoral studies at Purdue University. Maria is currently pursuing research in the area of Response of Health Care Facilities to Disaster Events.

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Students in the Masters' Program



Lindsay Miller. *M.S.C.E. student* in the School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette. Lindsay was raised in Eagle, Idaho. She received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from Purdue University in December of 2005. She also minored in Spanish and spend a semester abroad in Seville, Spain. While attending school, Lindsay interned with Idaho Power Company and CH2M Hill. She also worked as an undergraduate research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Abraham. In Spring 2006, Lindsay began her graduate studies at Purdue University. Currently, she is conducting research toward her Master's degree. Her thesis is in the area of Nighttime Construction Safety focusing on speed control measures in work zones. Lindsay has an E.I.T license from Indiana.

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Vanessa Valentin. *M.S.C.E. student* in the School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette. Vanessa was raised in Moca, Puerto Rico. She received her B.S. in Civil Engineering in May 2005 from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. She worked at Comas & Comas Contractors, Inc. where she prepared construction bids and performed project management tasks in cost estimating and project scheduling. In Spring 2005, Vanessa began her graduate studies at Purdue. Currently, Vanessa is pursuing research towards her M.S.C.E. thesis. Her thesis is in the area of Nighttime Construction Safety focusing on high-visibility safety garments. Vanessa plans to continue her studies to obtain her PhD.

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Carlos A. Ferreira Diaz. *M.S.C.E. student* in the School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette. Carlos was born in Bucaramanga, Colombia. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Bucaramanga, in September 2003. Before his graduation he started working as an auxiliary engineer in residential construction in his hometown. Subsequently he worked as resident engineer in road improvement, and in bridge construction and rehabilitation in different regions of Colombia. In Fall 2006 Carlos started his graduate studies at Purdue University. Currently, he is conducting research towards his Master's degree. His thesis is in the area of Safety Issues and Worker Injury Prevention in Work Zones.

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Alma Torres-Zapata. *M.S.C.E. student* in the School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette. Alma was raised in San Germán, Puerto Rico. She received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez in May 2002. She has worked for Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority, CMA Architects and Engineers LLP and Iglesias-Vazquez & Associates Architects and Engineers, as a project engineer and manager. She also worked as a cost estimator and project inspector for public works projects. In Fall 2006, Alma began her graduate studies at Purdue University. Currently, she is conducting research toward her Master's degree. Her thesis is in the area of Worker Injury Prevention Strategies focusing on the analysis of current work zone practices. Alma has an E.I.T license from Puerto Rico.

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Muhammad M. Haroon. *M.S.C.E. student* in the School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette. Muhammad is from Karachi, Pakistan. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering in December 2005 from University of Nebraska Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska. As an undergraduate student, Muhammad interned with Principal Builders, a construction firm in Karachi, Pakistan. Currently, Muhammad is pursuing research towards his M.S.C.E. Independent Research Study. His research is in the area of evaluation of motivational techniques for labor productivity improvement in the construction industry in developing countries.

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Undergraduate Research Assistants



Alice Madjani. *B.S. Student* in the Division of Construction Engineering and Management (CEM), Purdue University, West Lafayette. Alice was born in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo. She and her family moved to Louisville, Kentucky in 2000. She is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), African Student Association, Society of Women Engineers, and Beta Tau, the CEM Honorary Fraternity. She is also a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow (SURF) at Purdue. In Summer 2006, Alice worked as an engineering intern for Hunt Construction Group on the new Indianapolis airport. She is expected to graduate with her B.S. from Purdue in May 2009 and after graduation she plans to pursue a graduate degree. Alice is currently working as an undergraduate research assistant in the area of Worker Injury Prevention Strategies.

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William Harris. *B.S. Student* in the Division of Construction Engineering and Management (CEM), Purdue University, West Lafayette. William was born in Gary, Indiana and expects to graduate in May 2008. He is currently the Treasurer of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) - Purdue chapter, and a member of the Construction Engineers of the Future (CEF). In Summer 2006, he was a project engineer intern for Walsh Construction on the Dan Ryan Expressway (1X/2X) re-construction project in Chicago, Illinois. After graduation, he plans to attend graduate school to pursue his MBA degree. William is currently working as an undergraduate research assistant and is focusing on cost issues related to speed control on nighttime construction and maintenance projects.

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Ismail Muhammad. *B.S. Student* in the Division of Construction Engineering and Management (CEM) Purdue University, West Lafayette. Ismail is from Cuernavaca, Morelos of Mexico and has spent the past 10 years in Chicago, Illinois. He is expected to graduate with his B.S. from Purdue in May 2008. In Summer 2006, Ismail worked as an engineering intern for Power and Sons Construction Company in Chicago, Illinois. He is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Latino Student Union (LSU), and an active volunteer for the Minority Engineering Programs (MEP). After graduation, he plans on pursuing his M.S.C.E. degree. Ismail is currently working as an undergraduate research assistant in the area of Safety of Nighttime Construction, and is focusing on the costs and benefits of personnel protective equipment.

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Rachel Myers. *B.S. Student* in the Division of Construction Engineering and Management (CEM), Purdue University, West Lafayette. Rachel was born in Cleveland, Ohio and is expected to graduate with her B.S. from Purdue in December 2007. She has worked for Messer Construction Company in Cincinnati, Ohio for the past two summers on internships, first as an estimating intern and then as a project manager intern. She is currently the President of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) – Purdue Chapter, an ambassador for the College of Engineering, a member of Beta Tau, the CEM Honorary Society, and a member of the Construction Engineers of the Future (CEF). Rachel is also an active volunteer for the Minority Engineering Programs (MEP) and the Women In Engineering Programs (WIEP). After graduation, she plans on pursuing her M.S.C.E. degree, with a specialization in Construction Engineering and Management. Rachel is currently working as an undergraduate research assistant, exploring lighting options for nighttime construction and maintenance projects.

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