

autumn 2019

Bench marks

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND GEODETIC ENGINEERING



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

BUILDING BRIDGES

Industry Mentor Program kickoff event takes place in unique location

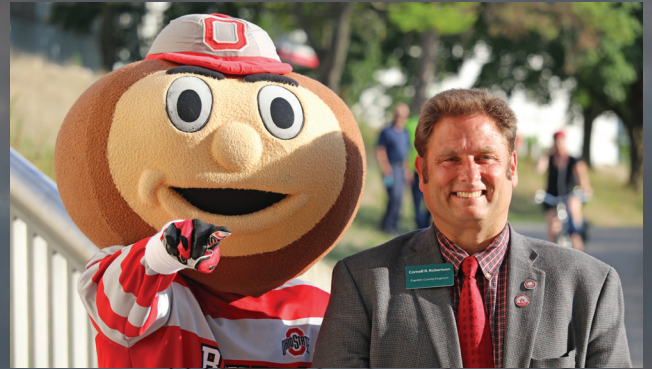
Runners and cyclists who filled the Olentangy Trail on a sunny and pleasant September afternoon craned their necks to get a closer look at the large group seated beneath the Lane Ave. bridge.

The gathering was the brainchild of Cornell Robertson, who wanted to bring together, "in the field", CEGE students and faculty, along with alumni and industry professionals, to celebrate the start of the new academic year at Ohio State.

A proud alumnus, Robertson (BS CE '92) was no stranger to holding public events. As Franklin County Engineer, he oversaw a team that built and maintained the region's roads and bridges and actively pursued outreach and engagement opportunities in the community. He shared his idea with Barry Tolchin, CEGE's Manager of Academic Advising and coordinator of the department's Industry Mentor Program and department chair Allison Mackay. Both enthusiastically agreed to hold the yearly welcome event for CEGE's Industry Mentor Program on the multi-use path that lies beneath the Lane Ave. Bridge.

"The Ohio State University holds a very special place in my heart," Robertson said. "We want to see students develop into future leaders through these educational opportunities." Although site visits were a common element of the mentor program, this one was unique. "It was not just an opportunity to tell students about a project that we did," stated Franklin Co. Bridge Design Engineer Ed Herrick (BS CE '00). "The idea was to get their eyes on the project and, in this case, even their hands."

Students learned how the bridge and the Olentangy River Restoration projects came to life Tolchin said. "It was an embodiment of the purpose of the mentorship program itself - helping students engage with civil and environmental engineers in a way they may not be able to through their coursework."



(Top row) Cornell Robertson (R) celebrates with Brutus Buckeye (Middle row, L) Ed Herrick (middle) speaks to attendees as cyclists pass by (Middle row, R) Mentor George Butzer (HyperSphere, Inc.) mingles with students (Bottom row, L) Dean David Williams offers remarks during the program (Bottom row, R) Student Sydney Stahl (L) and mentor Victoria Werth (CESO, Inc.) share a laugh during the kickoff celebration