

Approved by the Board of Trustees
March 11, 2009

Board Meeting
March 11, 2009

DESIGNATE THE M. T. GEOFFREY YEH STUDENT CENTER IN NEWMARK
LABORATORY, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING, URBANA

Action: Approve the Designation of the M. T. Geoffrey Yeh Student Center in Newmark Laboratory, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Urbana

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana has recommended the naming of a yet to-be-constructed student center addition at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering located at 205 North Mathews Avenue, Urbana, as the M. T. Geoffrey Yeh Student Center in Newmark Laboratory in recognition of Mr. Yeh's \$4.0 million gift. This gift will help fund the construction of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Newmark Laboratory expansion project. Specifically, Mr. Yeh is supportive of the establishment of a classroom annex next to the Newmark Laboratory to create a unique instructional space, build community, and foster stronger ties to their alma mater for the students of the Civil and Environmental Engineering program. This will also complete the original vision for Newmark Laboratory which at the time included classroom space, but was never constructed.

The \$9.0 million expansion of Newmark Laboratory will add 20,500 square feet of new space, including seven classrooms along with a conference room and student

study and seating areas. Total construction costs include landscaping, furnishings and fixtures, elevators, mechanical, restrooms, classroom A/V, and networking. The remainder of the funding comes from private sources including alumni and corporate sponsors, and \$1.0 million contributions by both the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the College of Engineering.

Mr. Yeh is originally from Shanghai, China, and graduated from the Department of Civil Engineering in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Following his graduation he earned a Master of Science degree from Harvard University. Mr. Yeh is chairman of Hsin Chong International Holdings, Ltd., the company founded by his father in 1939. Hsin Chong has grown from a small construction firm into a property services group, which includes one of Hong Kong's oldest and largest construction companies and one of Hong Kong's largest independent facilities and property management companies. Previously, Mr. Yeh established the M. T. Geoffrey Yeh Graduate Research Fellowship and the M. T. Geoffrey Yeh Endowed Chair, both in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Other examples of his philanthropic gifts are the M. T. Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery at St. John's University in Queens, New York (where he received an honorary doctorate in 1983), the Synergis-Geoffrey Yeh Business Management Chair at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and the endowed Yeh Family Lu Xun Social Science Chair at Beijing University, in honor of Lu Xun, one of the most influential Chinese thinkers and writers of the twentieth century. Mr. Yeh's dedication to the civil engineering profession and his

loyal support of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering motivated him to make this generous gift commitment.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University concurs.