Social Pages
COFS vs CRE Soccer
The 6th Annual COFS vs. Civil Engineering Soccer match put a lot of pressure on COFS to stop a painful four year losing streak. Thankfully, the recruitment of several strong overseas signings and the performance of long-time COFS players secured a long awaited win.

The Civil opposition was well balanced with all the usual Stars on show – Cheng, Lehanne and Doherty as well as their extensive list of student players. This year, COFS could boast trio of Irish power along with a certain senior Brazilian player. The game was evenly balanced with attacks from both sides testing the respective defences to no avail till mid-way through the first half when a long ball from the COFS defence created a chance for Henning Mohr who passed it across to Chengcai Luo who shot and scored what turned out to be the winning goal.

During the rest of the first half, several attacks from an increasingly frustrated Civil team were rebuffed, thwarted by a determined defence and mid field and the imposing figure of Scott Draper in goal.

The second half was a very tense affair with regular attacks and half chances snuffed out by a resolute COFS team with a continual rotation of players. Everyone put in 100% effort on a hot December evening, but one player in particular deserves a special mention: Omid Kohan played like a man possessed in the second half, chasing down any Civil player who dared enter his territory.

By the end of a very long second half (30 mins plus injury time, aka Civil time) which provided two late chances for COFS bravely defended by Jim Waters in the Civil goal, the referee eventually blew his whistle and the COFS team rejoiced in a long overdue win.

Thanks to Kan Yu for his on and off pitch efforts, bringing the match together and organising the COFS team plus the after match refreshments.

As always there’s next year with the ledger 4-2 in favour of CIVIL. Thanks to those who gave their time playing and supporting and good luck to all in future games.
UWA Staff Sports Day
Sports, Fun, and Medals
The fifth annual Staff Sports Fun Day saw several teams getting ready for fun competitions. The morning sessions included traditional games and the afternoon was dedicated to novelty events. This year COFS and Civil had separate teams although they shared a few team members. Interestingly enough, many other teams across various faculties were sharing members, which helped maintaining the fun side of the games as much as its competition side. The morning was spent on volleyball games and although scores were not counted seriously, the COFS and Civil teams appeared to perform better than the others! So everyone left the field for lunch satisfied with the outcome.

COFS maintained its presence in the afternoon games by its highly motivated and persistent member, Behnaz. She managed to score very well in many games and as it is observed in the photo below, she harvested many medals and came back to COFS as happy and smiley as ever. She was given the title of “medal collector machine” at the end of the day.

Global Corporate Challenge

2012 saw two teams again taking part in the Global Corporate Challenge (GCC). The field of UWA teams had increased dramatically from 17 in 2011, to 56, which meant gold medals for the winning UWA team. The two COFS teams, with members drawn from a hat, were Poor Unfortunate Soles (Manuel Palacios, Alex Duff, Sharmin Farhana, Lisa Melvin, Avril Dickey, Monika Mathyssek-Kilburn and Monica Mackman) and The 7 Wonders (Christophe Gaudin, Ying Guo, Keith Russell, Kan Yu, Usha Mani, Behnaz Abdollahzadeh and Scott Draper). The 112 day challenge began on Thursday 24 May, and both teams set off at a cracking pace in search of gold.

Fierce competition, with both teams keen to outdo each other, and further competition from Civil team, The Gloisters, saw a flurry of personal bests, and inventive ways to exercise. Morning tea each Wednesday, organised by Yuxia Hu, enticed teams to meet and exchange stories, and forged great camaraderie amidst the rivalry. A team photo competition provided further incentive and inspiration (as well as fun) for all. Some of the activities that were used to amass impressive team step tallies were volleyball, badminton, soccer, cycling, running, housework, photography, rowing, dancing, hockey, walking, zumba, swimming, body pump, skipping, bushwalking, gardening, zendokai, treadmills, tennis, and City to Surf.
Although we left the gold medals for others to collect, the COFS teams collected a number of awards at the Faculty presentations, including Best team name (Poor Unfortunate Soles), Best team total (The 7 Wonders, with over 13 million steps), and the Best individual total (Behnaz Abdollahzadeh, with an impressive total of nearly 2.8 million steps at a daily average of 24,932!) Congratulations to everyone that participated, with the two teams achieving close to 24 million steps over the 16 weeks, which is a phenomenal result.

City to Surf
The COFS members were back on the roads for ‘City to Surf’ in September 2012. This year, ‘City to Surf’ was bigger than ever, cracking the record number of participants, with 45,046 registered. COFS had a total of 18 participants in half marathon, 12km walk/run, 4km run and 4km walk sessions. Starting in different sessions, it was impossible to meet before the start of the runs, but most COFS participants managed to meet after reaching their destinations and had a little bit of ‘cool’ time under the shade while supplied with fruits and drinks. The name of this year COFS staff and students participants are given below. Congratulation to all of them and a well done job for their efforts in that semi-hot day!

Conleth O’Loughlin, Xiaojun Li, Anthony Blake, and Bart Thompson ran a half marathon. Chao Han, Jiajie Ma, Youhu Zhang, Cathal Colreavy, Manuel Palacios, Behnaz Abdollahzadeh, and Jingbin Zheng whizzed through a 12km run, while Indranil Guha, Keith Russell, Lisa Melvin, Ying Guo, and Usha Mani walked the same distance. Colm O’Beirne ran a 4km race and Mehrdad Kimiaei walked the same distance.

CRE and COFS Christmas party
CRE and COFS held their combined Christmas party on Friday 7 December at the Banquet Hall, University Club. Close to 100 staff, students, visitors and partners enjoyed the pre-dinner drinks and canapés, followed by the lovely 3 course sit down meal. Door prizes were again given out and the bon bons (party crackers) were good entertainment for the majority of people – give engineers a toy spinning top and just wait and see what competitions will be created!
Volleyball
In addition to playing at the UWA Sports Day, staff and students took part in the volleyball competition run during Semester. COFS were part of a combined Civil, COFS, Maths and Mechanical (CCMM) volleyball team in Semester 1. As a result of blitzing the field, we were kindly asked to create 2 teams for Semester 2. This resulted in an old rivalry between a COFS and Civil team. COFS finished at the top of the ladder at the end of the season, and Civil placed second. Civil were victorious in the Grand Final, after a very tight second set. Thanks to all the supporters who came to cheer for their team at the Final. We look forward to the rivalry continuing in 2013.

COFS Family Fun Day
The Family Fun Day was held at Scitech in early November. The venue was hired after hours so over 80 COFS staff and students and their families enjoyed all the interactive displays without the usual crowds. Most attended the “Super Cool” show on dry ice and then had some dinner before attacking the displays again. The kids went home happy and tired and the adults seemed to enjoy themselves as well.

Figure 131: Manuel and Con try out the hanglider with their kids

Figure 132: PhD student Youkou Dong on the bike

Figure 133: kids enjoying the underwater bubble

Figure 134: Semester 1 victors CCMM. Back: Yuxia Hu (Civil), Kecheng Shen (Mech), Antonio Carraro, Lisa Melvin, Shazzad Hossain, Front: Behnaz Abdollahzadeh, Yusuke Suzuki (Civil) Absent: Monica Chen (Maths)

Figure 135: COFS were represented by (clockwise) Stefanus Safinus, Shazzad Hossain, Antonio Carraro, Henning Mohr, Lisa Melvin, Behnaz Abdollahzadeh, Lucile Queau and Nathalie Boukpeti
Don Herley’s farewell function
A farewell function was held on the 30 March 2012 at the UWA Watersports Complex, to say goodbye to Don after 24 years at UWA working with our centrifuges. Around 70 people enjoyed some drinks and canapés, with the fantastic view of the river while some great music played in the background. Don gave a fantastic speech and was given his leaving present of a flashing neon sign (dedicated to those who became members of the “g club”) and a BCF voucher.

Freeway Bike Hike for Asthma
The Freeway Bike Hike for Asthma is WA’s largest cycling event and was specially designed to raise awareness and funds for the Asthma Foundation of Western Australia. In 2012, COFS entered a team giving staffs and students an excellent opportunity to hang out and enjoy the sunshine.

The race was held on a clear Sunday in late March. Five members from COFS/CRE took on the full 70 KM along Kwinana freeway from Mandurah to City of Perth. We met at Perth station to take train to Mandurah and ride back, where hundreds of bikes on the train provided new and exciting engineering challenges.

Phil Hortin’s farewell function
Another farewell function was held, this time to say farewell to Phil from the electronics lab. Phil worked in the electronics lab for around 8 years. Over 30 people attended the lunch at the Boatshed on the 7 May 2012 and we are sure he is enjoying his GroPro camera.

Figure 136: Don as part of the swimming team
Figure 137: Phil Hortin
Figure 138: Members of cycling group (L-R) Pantazis Houlis, Youhu Zhang, Xiaojun Li and Feifei Tong
In February, we drowned our sorrows at the fittingly named Acqua Viva to mark the retirement of Professor Martin Fahey, celebrating more than 27 years of academic life at UWA. Martin was a committed and highly regarded teacher, the cornerstone being his second year course introducing students to geomechanics – a course underpinned by an amazing set of notes, beautifully illustrated with his characteristic colourful diagrams. Rising through the academic ranks to full professor in 2001, he led the School of Civil and Resource Engineering for 6 years between 1999 and 2004.

In research, his interests centred around soil behaviour and determination of engineering parameters, a field where he has made a number of seminal contributions. Until retirement he was a core member of the ISSMGE Technical Committee dealing with in situ testing, where his contributions ranged across pressuremeter, piezocone and dilatometer test interpretation.

Martin was one of the original chief investigators for the ARC Special Research Centre funding that gave birth to COFS, and shouldered management responsibility as Deputy Director from 1997 to 2009. He also led the research stream dealing with fundamental properties of calcareous soils, managing the soil characterisation laboratory and indeed being the main architect for our in-house triaxial and simple shear equipment. Ever interested in practical outcomes, he was a founding Director of the specialist consultancy Advanced Gomechanics in 1994.

In addition to his interests in offshore sediments, he maintained a strong interest in mine tailings, in the 1990s leading a project that is still regarded as state-of-the-art in respect of evaporation and consolidation behaviour of saline and non-saline tailings. More recently, he became involved studies of the complex time-dependent processes of lightly cemented mine back-fill, work supported by industry and ARC funding.

Martin was a wonderfully supportive colleague, ever willing to provide advice on tricky problems – his judgement of Solomon leavened by Irish logic. A speaker of many tongues, and player of a variety of instruments (with appropriate emphasis on flair over accuracy), with his wife Annie, he has always been a most generous host. We sincerely hope that the legendary hospitality of the Fahey household will continue unabated in his retirement.