Dr. Aspasia Zerva was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant for the amount of $191,332 to support the following project: "Collaborative Research: Career Enhancement of Academic Women in Earthquake Engineering Research (ENHANCE). This project will bring together the expertise of seven female faculty members from six universities nation-wide in an effort to establish an international community of female faculty in earthquake engineering and to provide mentoring to junior faculty members.

Dr. Franco Montalto was recently awarded a National Science Foundation CAREER award, which was submitted to the Environmental Sustainability program of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET). This is a 5 year award in the amount of $410,000. The project is entitled: CAREER: Integrated Assessments of the Impacts of Decentralized Land Use and Water Management Practices in Urban Ecosystems. The proposed work includes advancing knowledge about poorly understood hydrologic processes that occur on vegetated and impervious land parcels in dense urban environments, and their relationship to ecosystem services. Special attention will be paid to the watershed-scale implications of deliberate micro-scale redirections of water in ultra-urban settings, e.g. green infrastructure (GI) projects.

Dr. Sabrina Spatari has been invited to become an associate editor of a journal entitled Progress in Industrial Ecology, published by Inderscience. As an associate editor, Dr. Spatari will handle the submissions that fall into her area of professional expertise (i.e. life cycle assessment) including appointing suitable reviewers, to interact with the authors for revisions and to make a final decision about publication.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA) had it's annual meeting in Philadelphia on Feb 13-15. The region served by MARAMA spans from Virginia to New York and Representatives from state and local air management agencies, NASA, the EPA, and two academics were in attendance. Presentations were given on the latest modeling results for the region, impacts of Marcellus Shale on regional air quality, future issues for air quality management, and the new research discoveries. Dr. Peter DeCarlo gave a presentation entitled: Fast-online Measurements of Organic Aerosol – Insight into Sources and Processing in the Atmosphere, where he discussed the importance of organic aerosol, new techniques to measure organic aerosol particles, and what these measurements have taught us about the importance of organic aerosol in the atmosphere.

Drexel University and American Waterworks Company, Inc. were recently awarded a grant from the WateReuse Research Foundation for a joint research project titled: "Application of the Bioluminescent Saltwater Assimilable Organic Carbon (AOC) Test as a Tool for Identifying and Reducing Reverse-Osmosis (RO) Membrane Fouling in Desalination." Dr. Charles Haas, Department Head of the Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering Department (CAEE) and LD Betz Professor of Environmental Engineering is the Principal Investigator of the project. Lauren Weinrich, an Environmental Engineering PhD Student in the CAEE Department, will serve as the project manager. The total grant award is $248,170. The project will monitor the biological fouling potential using a recently developed tool for measuring readily biodegradable components in seawater.