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## **CCACB Partners with Trinity College on Affordable Concrete Testing Program**

**WILLINGTON, Conn.** – The Connecticut Coalition Against Crumbling Basements (CCACB) is partnering with Trinity College Environmental Science Program to provide a more affordable core sample testing source for homeowners. CCACB will manage collection of the samples and Trinity College faculty and students will complete the testing and provide the written reports.

The faculty members leading this partnership are Christoph E. Geiss, PhD, Environmental Science Program Director and Professor of Physics, and Jonathan R. Gourley, PhD, Lab Coordinator and Senior Lecturer. Dr. Geiss's field of expertise is geophysics and Dr. Gourley's field of expertise is geology.

The heart of Trinity College's analysis is a magnetic measurement. "When I heard that the mineral involved in the failing concrete was pyrrhotite, I thought: 'Pyrrhotite is a magnetic mineral. I have been measuring magnetic properties of rocks for decades,'" said Geiss.

"Dr. Geiss and Dr. Gourley contacted CCACB earlier this year wanting to help," said Tim Heim, CCACB President. "During the summer, I provided them with more than 20 blind samples of concrete I had collected from around the region. Many of the samples were from homes I knew were affected — homes already being fixed or younger homes that had been confirmed. But I also included concrete from outside the affected region that shouldn't have pyrrhotite in it. Their testing was spot-on accurate."

"This project incorporates everything we do here at Trinity. What began as research interests by the faculty has quickly developed to include our students, who will participate in the analyses and learn how to apply their science to the greater good," said Geiss.

Details and pricing will be finalized by the end of the year. The program may be running as early as January 2018. To speak with Trinity College, please contact Kathy Andrews, Director of Media Relations and Community Outreach, at [kathy.andrews@trincoll.edu](mailto:kathy.andrews@trincoll.edu) or 860.297.4285.

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*The Connecticut Coalition Against Crumbling Basements (CCACB) is a grassroots alliance of homeowners affected by pyrrhotite. To learn more, please visit [www.cacb.org](http://www.cacb.org).*