

THE BRIDGE

Missouri S&T
Summer 2026 | Vol. 55

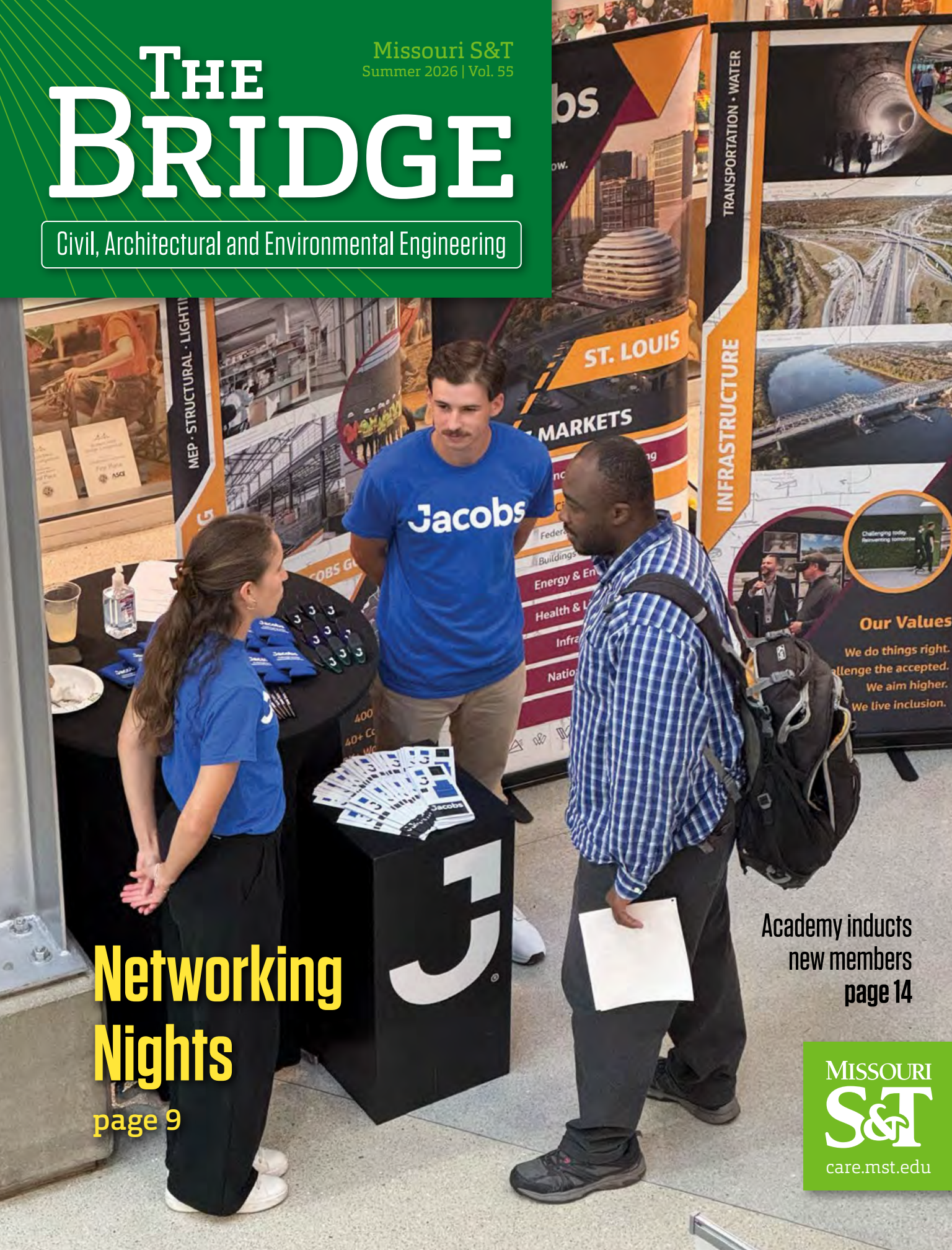
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FROM THE CHAIR: Karan Venayagamoorthy, Ph.D.



As you browse this issue of *The Bridge*, you will find inspiring stories and updates celebrating the people, achievements and momentum shaping our community ranging from new team members and networking events to distinguished lectures, alumni accomplishments and faculty recognition.

We are especially proud to share that two of our civil engineering alumni were recently selected for prestigious leadership roles. **Mike McEvilly**, a global oil and gas exploration executive and vice president of fabrication at Morrison Energy, was named the new president of the S&T Board of Trustees (page 4). **Gary Forsee**, former president of the University of Missouri System and a respected leader in the telecommunications industry, joined the Kummer Missouri S&T Foundation Board (page 6).

This issue also highlights insights from leaders making an impact across the profession. Dr. Marsha Anderson Bomar, president-elect of the American Society of Civil Engineers, shared her perspective on leadership and professional engagement (page 10). **Alex Elsayegh**, PhD CE'21, and engineer at McCarthy, discussed how AI solutions are helping streamline complex construction projects (page 6).

In April, the Academy of Civil Engineers proudly inducted 14 accomplished alumni (page 14), and several students, faculty and staff received awards recognizing excellence in teaching, service and achievement (page 19).

As part of the 2026 Stueck Distinguished Lecture Series, Mojeri Coker hosted a special screening of his award-winning documentary *Pipe Dreams* (page 12).

The film is raising awareness and support to make clean water accessible to thousands of people across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.

Our faculty continue to earn recognition for their leadership and contributions. **Dr. Islam El-adaway** was appointed associate provost for St. Louis operations. **Dr. John Myers** was elected to a three-year term on the American Concrete Institute (ACI) Board of Directors, and **Dr. Mohamed ElGawady** was named an ACI Fellow. In addition, **Dr. Nick Libre** and **Dr. Jenny Liu** were recognized by S&T's College of Engineering and Computing for excellence in teaching and service, while **Dr. Eric Showalter** and **Dr. Dan Oerther** were honored for their years of dedication and service to the university.

We also pause to remember **Dr. Shamsher Prakash**, an exceptional educator and respected leader in geotechnical engineering, whose work and kindness left a lasting impact on countless students and colleagues (page 27).

Throughout the year, we continued building meaningful connections through engaging discussions, thoughtful questions and collaborative events, including the department's first PechaKucha night on artificial intelligence (page 13) and our three CArEE alumni Town Halls (page 20).

As always, we welcome your ideas, involvement and support, and we hope you will continue this exciting journey with us. Together, we are making a meaningful difference by educating "street ready" engineers who continue to *change the world* for the better.

Kind regards,

Karan Venayagamoorthy (vskaran@mst.edu)

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DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Department Chair

Karan Venayagamoorthy, Ph.D.

Assistant & Associate Chairs

Civil: **Eric Showalter, Ph.D., P.E., LEED A.P.**

Architectural: **Stuart Baur, Ph.D., A.I.A.**

Environmental: **Joel Burken, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, FAEESP**

Graduate Programs: **Magdy Abdelrahman, Ph.D.**



LISTER FLORENCE TAKES THE REINS AS ROLLA MAYOR

In 1986, **Lister B. Florence Jr.**, CE'95, MS IST'06, CSci'07, began taking classes as a first-year civil engineering student at Missouri S&T. Nearly 40 years later, Florence is the newly elected mayor of Rolla, Missouri.

➔ news.mst.edu/2026/04/missouri-st-alumnus-lister-florence-takes-the-reins-as-rolla-mayor



Jocelyn Bates



Jennifer Heberlie

NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS

Jocelyn Bates, our new office assistant IV, plans and coordinates many activities and events for our students, faculty and the academy. She was born and raised in Missouri and later moved to Florida to attend Florida Gulf Coast University, where she studied communications. She's a proud cat mom to Sawyer and Bull and enjoys working out, hiking and baking — especially sourdough and other homemade treats. She also runs a mobile notary business when time allows.

Jennifer Heberlie, our new office assistant IV, helps manage daily operations. A Rolla native, she spent 26 years with the Rolla Public School System as both a teacher and librarian. She's married to Joe, an S&T civil engineering alumnus, and they have two adult sons. Outside of work, Jennifer enjoys reading and spending time with her two Siamese cats.

THE BRIDGE



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McEvilly named president of S&T's Board of Trustees

Michael J. "Mike" McEvilly, global oil and gas exploration executive and vice president of fabrication at Morrison Energy, was elected as the new president of the Board of Trustees. His two-year term began April 2026.

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Forsee joins Kummer Foundation Board

Gary Forsee, a 1972 civil engineering graduate of Missouri S&T, joined the Kummer Missouri S&T Foundation Board on Jan. 29, 2026.

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Lamitola named Outstanding Engineer in Government

Anne Lamitola, CE'00, and Academy of Civil Engineers member, was named the 2026 Outstanding Engineer in Government by the St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE).

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Prakash passes away in India



McEvilly named president of S&T's Board of Trustees

Photo by Tracy Hopkins

Missouri S&T announced that alumnus **Michael J. "Mike" McEvilly**, global oil and gas exploration executive and vice president of fabrication at Morrison Energy, was elected as the new president of the Board of Trustees. McEvilly began his two-year term in April 2026 and succeeds alumnus **Steven Wunning**, who is stepping down from the presidency and continuing as a board member.

Since joining the Missouri S&T Board of Trustees in 2019, McEvilly has been a steady influence in the university's advancement. He led the Academy of Engineering Management as president from 2022-24, following his 2011 induction into that academy and the Academy of Civil Engineering. He also led the Miner Alumni Association as president from 2020-22 and served the organization in other key roles starting in 2010. In 2024, McEvilly's long-standing service was honored with his induction as an Honorary Knight of St. Patrick — one of Missouri S&T's most distinguished recognitions for its most steadfast allies.

"Mike is highly respected across the board and deeply invested in Missouri S&T's future," says **Chancellor Mo Dehghani**. "His collaborative leadership and unwavering commitment strengthen our trustees and inspire all who have the privilege of working alongside him."

"I'm honored to serve as president of the Board of Trustees," says McEvilly. "I look forward to supporting Chancellor Dehghani and Missouri S&T with a future-ready vision, partnering with my fellow trustees, campus leadership, the Rolla community, and the Kummer Missouri S&T Foundation Board, as we continue to guide S&T's strategic progress."

McEvilly's leadership also spans the TKE International Fraternity, where he chairs the Grand Council's Board of Directors, serves on the TKE Foundation Board, and advises the Beta Eta chapter of the Missouri S&T campus, where he led the capital campaign that built the chapter's new house in 2017. In 2019, TKE honored McEvilly with its Alumnus of the Year and Fraternity for Life awards.

McEvilly earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering and engineering management from Missouri S&T in 1980 and 1981. Over his 45 year oil industry career, he has built extensive expertise in offshore upstream development of floating production units. He joined Morrison Energy in 2022 after senior roles with Husky Energy (now Cenovus Energy), Hess Corporation (now Chevron), Spitzer Industries and Helix Energy Solutions. From 1985-2007, he advanced through Anadarko Petroleum to worldwide facilities and construction manager, where he led the development of the Independence Floating Hub — the industry's deepest and most productive ultra deepwater processing platform of its time.

McEvilly and his wife, **Mary Ellen (Hilton)**, EMgt'81, reside in Spring, Texas, where he has served Trinity Klein Lutheran Church in many volunteer leadership roles. The McEvilly's two adult children and four grandchildren live nearby in the Houston area.

Paul A. Lang, MinE'83, former chief executive officer of Arch Resources Inc. and Core Natural Resources (created in the merger of Arch and Consol Energy), a global coal producer,

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Kaylee Denbo, above right, a master's degree student in environmental engineering, works in a lab with Dr. Mariam Al-Lami, a postdoctoral fellow. Photo by Michael Pierce/Missouri S&T

S&T remains state's top public grad school for engineering

Missouri S&T rose in the national rankings again this year, remaining the state's top public graduate school for engineering and placing among the nation's best, according to the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings released in April 2026.

"Graduate students who come to Missouri S&T have opportunities to learn from some of the world's top researchers and play direct roles in projects that address complex global challenges," says **Dr. David Borrok**, GGph'95, vice provost and dean of S&T's College of Engineering and Computing. "Our commitment to providing the tools and support students need to conduct this level of research is reflected in our rankings and demonstrates the strength of our programs."

The university rose to No. 47 (tied) nationally among public universities — two spots higher than last year. Among both public and private universities, S&T tied for No. 76, which was five places higher than 2025.

Four of S&T's programs climbed in the overall national rankings when compared to last year, including:

- Computer engineering, which rose to No. 69 from No. 85
- Chemical engineering, which rose to No. 78 from No. 94
- Environmental engineering, which rose to No. 46 from No. 54
- Petroleum engineering, which rose to No. 14 from No. 16

Other S&T engineering programs with national rankings include aerospace engineering (44), biomedical engineering (114), civil engineering (48), electrical engineering (74), materials science and engineering (62), mechanical engineering (64), nuclear engineering (21) and systems engineering (58).



Money Magazine lists Missouri S&T among nation's best colleges

Missouri S&T has been listed in the Best Colleges 2025 report by Money Magazine, earning 4.5 stars and additional recognition in the publication's categories for Best Public Colleges, Best Colleges in the Midwest and Best Colleges with High Acceptance Rates.

Instead of ranking institutions numerically, Money Magazine uses a star-rating system focused on affordability and student outcomes.

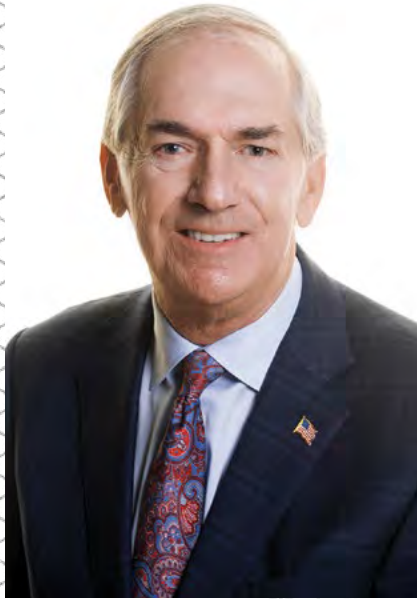
Schools on the list receive between 2 and 5 stars, with most earning 3.5 or 4 stars.

A total of 732 schools met the magazine's requirements to be included, while more than 1,500 did not make the cut.

View Missouri S&T's full profile at: money.com/best-colleges/profile/missouri-university-of-science-and-technology.



Forsee joins Kummer Foundation Board



Gary Forsee

Photo submitted

Gary Forsee, CE'72, joined the Kummer Missouri S&T Foundation Board on Jan. 29.

Forsee has a wide range of leadership experience in the telecommunications industry. He has served on numerous public and nonprofit boards, served as president of the University of Missouri System from 2007 to 2011, was a member of the Board of Trustees at S&T, and is an Honorary Knight of St. Patrick and a member of the Order of the Golden Shillelagh.

"We are excited to welcome Gary Forsee to the Kummer Missouri S&T Foundation Board," says Chancellor Mo Deghani. "His experience and extraordinary leadership skills, along with his commitment to S&T and passion for education, will be invaluable as we continue to expand the Kummer Institute's impact to the university and the state of Missouri."

Forsee says his decision to join the board reflects a long-standing tradition among S&T alumni of staying engaged with the university.

"S&T alumni have always been incredibly supportive of the campus," Forsee says. "Their support shows when serving or volunteering time and resources. Of course, Fred and June Kummer would be right at the top of any list of supporters — it is an incredible list that continues to grow. It is great to support S&T, and as we all go through our careers and gain experiences, being available to help in any way, to me, is important."

Forsee says his goals during his service on the board center on supporting the campus, the chancellor and the Kummer Institute as well as contributing where his experience can be helpful.

"I understand the importance of Missouri S&T to the state and the recognition that comes with that," Forsee says. "My goal is to assist in the great progress already underway but also help ensure alumni and supporters continue to see the value S&T provides."

Young alumnus talks AI

Twelve speakers presented their ideas at Missouri S&T's TEDx event last fall. The theme for 2025 was "Redefine. Redesign. Rediscover." Topics included healthcare, aging and AI.

One of our young alumni — **Alex Elsayegh**, PhD CE'21, an Egypt-born innovation engineer at McCarthy Holdings, Inc., who deploys AI solutions to streamline complex construction projects — was selected to participate. Elsayegh holds a doctorate degree, with an emphasis in construction management, in civil engineering from Missouri S&T and formerly served as president of the S&T Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) student chapter.

A lifelong advocate for clear, confident speech, Elsayegh founded #theAMRway to coach professionals in communication skills. His journey from international student to industry change-agent fueled his TEDx mission to bridge the gap between AI-polished writing and real-world conversation.



Alex Elsayegh

Photo by Sam O'Keefe/Missouri S&T

New faculty members

Join us in welcoming our newest CAEE faculty members.

Dr. Seogjae Choi



Dr. Seogjae Choi, assistant teaching professor of civil, architectural and environmental engineering, was most recently a lecturer at the University of Arkansas and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Texas at Austin. His industry experience includes working as an engineering consultant for FTC Architects in Austin, Texas, and a project engineer for Samsung C&T Corp. in Korea. Choi earned his Ph.D. and his master's degree, both in civil engineering from UT Austin, and a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from Korea University.

Dr. Seongho Han



Dr. Seongho Han, assistant research professor of civil, architectural and environmental engineering, joined the faculty in January after serving as a postdoctoral fellow at S&T. His research interests include the durability, performance and sustainability of concrete. He holds eight patents. Han earned his Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering

from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and his master's degree in urban infrastructure engineering and a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering, both from the Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology in Korea.

Dr. Shakeel Abid Mohammed



Dr. Shakeel Abid Mohammed, assistant teaching professor, joined the faculty at the start of the spring semester. He specializes in geotechnical engineering, and his research focuses on extending the mechanics of unsaturated soils to support the development of climate-resilient transportation infrastructure. He earned his Ph.D.

in civil engineering from the National Institute of Technology, India, in 2023. Following his doctoral studies, he spent two years as a postdoctoral research associate at The University of Texas at Austin, where he worked on federally and state-sponsored projects related to transportation infrastructure, geosynthetics and sensor-based monitoring systems.



MO-CCI Industry Night

During MO-CCI Industry Night students honed and strengthened their communication skills with partner construction members. These companies play a proactive role in preparing our students to hit the ground running when joining the work force.



Photo courtesy of MoDOT



Missouri S&T awarded MoDOT grant to test low-salt diets for winter roads

A Missouri S&T research team has been awarded \$450,000 from the Missouri Department of Transportation for a two-year study evaluating new materials for treating roadways during winter weather that could reduce or replace traditional salt-based treatments.

“We know from basic chemistry that chloride salts are effective because they lower the freezing point of water and cause ice to melt enough for plows to more easily do their job,” says **Dr. Kamal Khayat**, S&T’s vice chancellor for research and innovation and the Vernon and Maralee Jones Professor of Civil Engineering. “But the same chloride ions that help melt ice can also penetrate concrete and corrode the reinforcing steel in pavement and bridge decks — and affect roadside vegetation and surrounding ecosystems.”

To address this issue, the Missouri S&T research team will conduct lab testing

and field trials with alternative deicing materials using an approach that is mindful of the state’s weather, available materials, and MoDOT’s winter maintenance practices.

They will evaluate different concentrations and combinations of corn steep liquor, glycerin and beet juice, among other bio-based products, and compare their performance, corrosivity and environmental impact to what the state currently uses.

“We see a lot of potential with these alternative materials, and this study will give Missouri the information it needs to choose safer, more sustainable ways to keep roads clear in winter,” Khayat says. “Keeping people safe on Missouri’s 34,000 miles of roadway is essential, and we also need to maintain the long-term health of the state’s infrastructure and the environment along those roads.”

Joining Khayat as co-principal investigators on the project at S&T are **Dr. Joel Burken**, a Curators’ Distinguished Professor and Mathes Endowed Chair of Environmental Engineering,

“This study will give Missouri the information it needs to choose safer, more sustainable ways to keep roads clear in winter.”

— Dr. Kamal Khayat

Dr. Seongho Han, an assistant research professor of civil, architectural and environmental engineering, and **Dr. Mariam Al-Lami**, a postdoctoral fellow in environmental engineering.

CAREE NETWORKING NIGHTS



The department welcomed 100-plus employers last fall and this spring for our networking nights.

We are thankful to have so many employers willing to take the time to discuss career paths and next steps students can take toward their futures.

Thank you to all the companies that regularly attend these events and make time to connect with our students.

ASCE St. Louis Section Awards

Congratulations to the following Miners that received awards at the ASCE St. Louis Section and ASCE Region 7 awards banquet.



Kellen Badgley, Region 7
Outstanding Student Member



Garrett Coggin, EI, MASCE Alizadeh
Geotechnology Scholarship



Jessica Frank, EIT



ASCE president-elect visits S&T

Dr. Marsha Anderson Bomar, president-elect of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), visited Missouri S&T last fall to share her insights on professional engagement and leadership.

Bomar presented “So Many Ways to Engage ... Which Paths Do You Choose?” She encouraged students to take full advantage of what ASCE can offer them, including insight to the future of our global infrastructure, the national infrastructure report card, future workforce needs and challenges — talking about how in an ever-changing world, civil engineers must be prepared to adapt to a changing climate and the evolving needs of communities.

She was introduced by **Marsia Geldert-Murphey**, MS CE’97, a past president of ASCE, who also moderated a question-and-answer session following the talk.

Bomar is a transportation strategic advisor with GHD, an international consulting firm. She is the former president and founder of Street Smarts Inc., a planning, engineering and design company, and Data Smarts Inc., a data collection and management firm. She was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2025 for her work in advancing sustainable transportation systems and land-use development.

An international past president of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, Bomar is a recipient of the Burton Marsh Lifetime Service Award, the Theodore Matson Memorial Award and ASCE’s William Wisely Civil Engineering Award.

She has been affiliated with the Transportation Research Board since 1975, serving on numerous committees and on steering committees for three international conferences.

Bomar earned a Ph.D. in environmental design and planning from the University of Georgia, a master’s degree in civil engineering from Princeton University, and both a master’s degree in transportation planning and engineering and a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.



MacArthur 'genius grant' recipient speaks at Missouri S&T

Dr. William Tarpeh, a MacArthur Fellowship awardee — often referred to as a “genius grant” — delivered Missouri S&T’s 2026 Mathes Distinguished Lecture in February.

Tarpeh, an assistant professor of chemical engineering at Stanford University, presented a talk titled “Designing Catalysts and Reactive Separations for Electrochemical Wastewater Refining.”

He described how new electrochemical approaches can treat polluted wastewater while recovering useful chemicals such as fertilizers. His work focuses on developing materials and processes that make water treatment more sustainable and more accessible for communities with limited resources.

Along with his MacArthur Fellowship, Tarpeh was awarded the National Science Foundation’s Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program award, the Water Research Foundation’s Paul Busch Award and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers’ 35 Under 35 recognition, among other honors.

Tarpeh earned his Ph.D. and master’s degree in environmental engineering at the University of California,

Berkeley, and his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering at Stanford University. He also completed postdoctoral training at the University of Michigan.

Many thanks to alumnus **John Mathes**, CE’67, MS CE’68, and his wife, Susan, for bringing nationally recognized scholars to our campus.





Stueck Lecturer and movie director hosts screening of ‘Pipe Dreams’

Missouri S&T hosted a special screening of the award-winning documentary *Pipe Dreams* on April 10, at Leach Theatre.

The movie’s director and the 2026 Neil and Maurita Stueck Distinguished Lecturer, Mojeri Coker, pictured above on the far right, introduced the movie and shared his thoughts on the making of the film, the resilience of the human spirit and how individuals can change the world.

Pipe Dreams tells the true story of Sylvester Nzuki Mwami, who at nine years old began a 20-year mission to bring clean water to his drought-

stricken village in rural Kenya. The film captures a decades-long struggle against a 50-year drought, focusing on perseverance, innovation and community-driven problem-solving.

Through *Pipe Dreams*, Coker launched an impact campaign in partnership with the nonprofit Microfinancing Partners in Africa, helping to finance and secure clean water access for thousands of people across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.

“Having Mojeri visit and talk of his work and how the film resonates the same values of resilience, hope and community-driven solutions that we

hold to be of paramount importance at S&T is a perfect connection,” said Dr. Joel Burken, the Mathes endowed chair of environmental engineering at S&T.

“The perfect fit with our students that strive to change the world was obvious, with our Engineers Without Borders (EWB) teams that are active in four countries. We celebrate 20 years of EWB this year, and *Pipe Dreams* is a great embodiment of the same spirit.”

Academy of Civil Engineers Fall Networking Event

Alumnae of the Academy of Civil Engineers held a networking event in the fall and answered some great questions and gave profound advice — helping to prepare students with considering and accepting job offers. They talked about benefit packages, 401ks, types of pay, work-life balance, early career challenges, unique career paths, leadership, advancement and much more.



PECHA KUCHA



Pictured from left to right: Jae Choi, Karan Venayagamoorthy, Susan Murray, Daniel Oerther, Eric Showalter, Mohamed ElGawady, Genda Chen and John Harris

There were good discussions, questions and information shared about AI during the department's first PechaKucha night. PechaKucha is a storytelling format where a presenter shows 20 slides for 20 seconds each, totaling six minutes and 40 seconds. Originating in Japan as "chit-chat," it forces conciseness, using auto-advancing images rather than text-heavy slides to foster creative, engaging and fast-paced presentations.

Five faculty members from the department told stories based on the theme "AI in Your Classroom Teaching and Scholarship."

They were:

- **Dr. Genda Chen:** "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Civil Engineering"
- **Dr. Jae Choi:** "Hard Hats, Smart Prompts: Using AI with Construction Students"
- **Dr. Mohamed ElGawady:** "Intelligent Innovation: Teaching and Research at the Intersection of AI and Civil Engineering"
- **Dr. Dan Oerther:** "Ethical AI Use Requires Transparency, Accountability and Verifiability"
- **Dr. Eric Showalter:** "Leveraging AI in the Classroom: 4448 and 4097"

Academy of Civil Engineers inducts new members

Fourteen professionals with ties to Missouri S&T were inducted into the S&T Academy of Civil Engineers during an induction ceremony held April 9 in Rolla.

The academy recognizes outstanding alumni for their professional achievement and success. It also provides support and experience to help the civil, architectural and environmental engineering department at Missouri S&T to reach its collective mission and values.

New members are:



Anika Careaga

Anika Careaga of Jefferson City, Missouri, owner of EnviroProof, earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Missouri S&T in 1998 with an emphasis in

environmental engineering. She has been a licensed professional engineer in Missouri since 2005. She began her career with MoDOT, where she evaluated erosion control products to create new specifications that are currently in use statewide. She then joined Midwest Environmental Consultants in 2002 where she primarily worked in solid waste and stormwater design.

In April 2024, Careaga started her own company, named EnviroProof, LLC. It specializes in providing environmental compliance services for commercial real estate and vertically integrated developers in the Midwest.

Anika and her husband, Jacob, also a 1998 S&T graduate, have a son who is enrolling at S&T to pursue a civil engineering degree. Jacob is the chief engineer for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Anika jokingly says she has OPD, or Obsessive Planning Disorder, a superpower that, used hand-in-hand with her love of spreadsheets, she tries to use for good rather than evil.



Marie A. Collins

Marie A. Collins of Lake St. Louis, Missouri, retired assistant director of engineering for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District. Collins earned a bachelor's degree in civil

engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1979 and a master's degree in civil engineering from S&T in 1989. She began her professional career with Booker Associates in 1980 before joining the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District in 1988 as a manager of plan review.

Collins continued to work for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, holding positions of increasing responsibilities. She became a program manager in 2001 and an assistant director of engineering in 2004, which is the position she held until her retirement in 2020.

As the assistant director of engineering, she was responsible for the Construction Management Division with a staff of over 50 engineering professionals, construction inspectors and support staff. The division was responsible for the construction inspections and management of the major storm and sanitary systems improvements funded by the district's average annual \$200 million Capital Improvement and Replacement Program. Collins has participated in various professional, charitable and civic organizations and taken on roles of responsibility.



Dan DeArmond

Dan DeArmond of St. Louis, senior vice president of WSP, earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from S&T in 1993.

In his over 30-year career with WSP, he has held multiple positions, including vice president, area manager and senior project manager. He oversees seven Midwest offices with a staffing of more than 700 engineers, architects, planners and scientists. As the local business line leader, DeArmond is the St. Louis liaison between local clients and WSP's international staff of 72,000 employees.

DeArmond has been awarded several honors, including the Honorable Ray LaHood Award from WTS St. Louis; and the Engineer of the Year in Private Practice from MSPE St. Louis. Additionally, he has presented at many conferences, seminars and symposiums on project advancements and techniques. He has participated in professional organizations such as Women's Transportation Seminar, American Council of Engineering Companies and Missouri Society of Professional Engineers.

Away from his St. Louis office, Dan shares time with his wife and three boys, and enjoys time spent outside, especially at his family farm fishing, hiking, exploring, and relaxing. He is heavily involved in Boy Scouts of America and his fraternity, Sigma Pi.



James Duehning

James Duehning of Lenexa, Kansas, is principal and managing director of program management for Burns & McDonnell. Duehning earned a bachelor's degree and

a master's degree, both in civil engineering from S&T, in 2004 and 2013, respectively. He has been with Burns & McDonnell since 2008. He began his career with the company as a project engineer and today is managing director of program management within the transmission and distribution global practice. Burns & McDonnell also promoted him to principal in 2022.

Duehning's service leadership is demonstrated through his participation in professional organizations, civic

outreach and serving S&T's civil, architectural and environmental engineering department. His S&T service includes outreach to students, staff and alumni, connecting them together to continue a foundational program for future engineering professionals. His service has been recognized by honors including the 2020 Young Alumni Award from S&T's Academy of Civil Engineers, an ASCE Civil Engineer Award in 2009 and being named to the 2018 "40 under 40" by the *Orlando Business Journal*. He is a Kansas City United Way top donor from Burns & McDonnell, and a top 100 donor for the Kansas City MS 150 fundraiser.

James' family includes his wife, Rylee Rose, and children Ben and Lauren. They enjoy outdoor activities, including hiking and biking.



Mohamed ElGawady

Dr. Mohamed ElGawady of Rolla, Missouri, professor of civil, architectural and environmental engineering and Alard and Sheri Kaplan Faculty Scholar at Missouri S&T, was inducted as an honorary member.

ElGawady earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in structural engineering, both from Cairo University in 1997 and 2000, respectively. He earned a Ph.D. in structural engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne in 2004. He is a licensed professional engineer in Egypt. ElGawady has been a faculty member at S&T for 13 years.

ElGawady is an internationally recognized scholar, educator, and leader in civil and structural engineering. He has supervised numerous graduate and undergraduate students, many of whom have earned awards and top honors.

Beyond research and teaching, ElGawady has provided extensive service to the civil engineering profession. Recognized as a top 2% scientist globally by Stanford University, he is also a recipient of the ASCE Innovation Award and the International Association of Advanced Materials Scientist Medal.

ElGawady is married and the father of three children, who are all on STEM paths. He enjoys playing and watching soccer and has a strong interest in economics and global finance.

(continued on the next page)

Academy of Civil Engineers continued...



Jay Hoskins

Jay Hoskins of St. Louis is assistant director of engineering in planning for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from

S&T in 1999 and a master's degree in civil engineering from Clemson University in 2001. He began his career with stints at The Forrester Group and TRC Environmental Corp. before he joined the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District in 2007. Since then, he has progressed from a civil engineer to assistant director of engineering in planning.

Hoskins is a leading state, regional, and national expert helping to shape regulatory policies. He has been instrumental in the WEF's EPA Region 7 annual meetings to address emerging water quality issues. The region includes Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

Hoskins has returned to S&T on several occasions to share his experiences and leadership with students.

Jay and his wife, Angela, have five children and live in Columbia, Illinois. Jay has been coaching his children in some capacity since they began playing sports. He loves to fly fish on the White River in Arkansas. At home, he enjoys watching the kids play while he is smoking ribs on the pool deck preparing for family dinner.



Darrell Jacobs

Darrell Jacobs of Chesterfield, Missouri, president of The Engenuity, earned bachelor's degrees in civil engineering and architectural engineering from

S&T in 2004. He joined G&W Engineering in 2012 and soon became the director of business development. He worked with the owners of the company to develop a five-year business plan. As the firm entered the third year of the plan, Jacobs and the owners formed En-Comm to provide energy, commissioning, and due diligence services to clients. En-Comm is now a subsidiary of G&W Engineering.

In 2021, Jacobs left G&W to start The Engenuity. He grew the business from four employees to 23 colleagues as of 2025.

Darrell and his wife, Nicki, have three children: Delanie, Callie and Dalton. He coaches sports for all his children. He is a Guinness World Record Holder as a participant in the longest marathon baseball game in 2019.



Rodney Joel

Rodney Joel of Kansas City, Missouri, is director of the Central Region Airports Division of the Federal Aviation Administration.

He earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree, both in civil engineering, from S&T in 1988 and 1990, respectively. His professional career has been focused on civil service in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airports Division. Joel is responsible for one of eight FAA regional offices of airports, in which his team administers hundreds of millions of dollars in grants for airport infrastructure improvements annually, ensures airport safety standards and provides guidance on airport design and master planning. The Airports Division is also responsible for implementing programs, including the runway safety program and airport certification services.

Joel is an expert and thought leader in airfield pavement technology and has played an instrumental role in the design and development of airfield pavements across the country over the last 30 years.

Joel is a photography and woodworking enthusiast. He and his wife have two adult daughters.



Eric Landwehr

Eric Landwehr of Jefferson City, Missouri, director of Cole County Public Works, earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from S&T in 1996. He is licensed as a

professional engineer in Missouri and has served Cole County, Missouri, for over two decades. Prior to Cole County, he worked for MoDOT for nine years.

Landwehr has contributed significantly to public infrastructure systems through his work in addition to his involvement with the American Public Works Association

(APWA), where he has held multiple leadership roles. He was named to APWA's national 2025 Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year. He was previously awarded the Missouri Chapter Public Works Leader of the Year and the D2 Award, the highest honor awarded by the Missouri chapter.

Eric is married to Stacy, and he is a father of three sons: Kyle, a fellow civil engineer; Nathanael, a U.S. Marine; and Zachary, a high school junior. Eric volunteers extensively with civic, technical and faith-based organizations. His hobbies, from restoring classic Mustangs to preserving his family farmhouse, reflect his appreciation for history and craftsmanship.



Andy Mueller

Andy Mueller of Springfield, Missouri, earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1990 from Missouri S&T. He is a fixture in southwestern Missouri

transportation engineering. In his time with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), and now with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT), he has led staff and project teams in delivering many high profile, critical infrastructure projects. He has also mentored and supported an entire generation of transportation engineers in southwest Missouri.

Following retirement after 28 years of service to MoDOT, Mueller currently serves as an associate and group manager for CMT in Springfield, Missouri. He oversees a staff of 33 engineers, surveyors, land acquisition specialists and rail specialists. Since joining CMT in 2020, Mueller's group and role have grown significantly, a testament to his leadership and skill in delivering projects to clients, attracting talent and building good teams.



Robert J. Payne

Brigadier General Robert J. Payne of Columbia, Missouri, earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1997 from S&T as a distinguished military graduate,

a master's degree in environmental management from Webster University and a master's degree in national security strategy from the National War College. He serves

as the deputy adjutant general and director of joint staff for the Missouri National Guard in Columbia, leading a 12,000-member organization and overseeing strategic operations that support Missouri's economy and national defense.

Payne's career spans over two decades, including active-duty assignments with U.S. Army Special Forces and leadership roles in emergency response, homeland security and military training. He has commanded multiple units and led statewide responses to COVID-19 and civil unrest.

He is a life member of several military associations and supports Missouri S&T through ROTC lectures and alumni engagement. His civic service includes founding Scout Troop 4475, coaching youth sports, and volunteering with Toys for Tots and bereavement programs.

Bob and his wife, Christi, have four daughters and are active in their church and community. He enjoys fitness, reading leadership literature, and supporting his daughters' activities.



Eric Shumate

Eric Shumate of Riverside, Missouri, earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Missouri S&T in 1996. He also earned a master's degree in civil engineering

(hydraulics) from the University of Iowa in 1998. He has been with the Army Corps of Engineers since 2004. His position as deputy district engineer for programs and project management is the highest civilian role in a Corps of Engineers district. Throughout his USACE career, he has been able to participate in numerous rewarding projects — locally, nationally, and globally.

Shumate maintains engagement with S&T, including giving technical talks, attending campus and alumni activities, recruiting visits for career fairs, and supporting student groups. He has held various civic roles, including alderman for the City of Kearney, City of Kearney planning and zoning commissioner, and serving on various church committees. He has received numerous awards, including the Army Engineer Regiment Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.

Eric has been married to his wife, Michelle, for 32 years and they have two adult children: Anthony and Brooklyn. Eric enjoys hunting, traveling, scuba diving, and being a fan of the Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Chiefs.

(continued on the next page)

Academy continued...



Thomas J. Westerman

Thomas J. Westerman of Jefferson City, Missouri, is a structural design engineer for Hg Consult. Since graduating from Missouri S&T in 1982, Westerman has established

himself as a leading structural bridge engineer in the United States. He has participated in or led the design of many complex and moveable structures, including major river crossings over the Cuyahoga, Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and the Englewood Flyover rail grade separation in Chicago. His work has been well recognized, both from the companies that he has worked for and from prominent technical organizations in engineering.

Westerman has been very involved in the technical organizations of his trade, including ASCE and AREMA, for over 40 years. His civic and charitable contributions include serving as grand knight in the Knights of Columbus and participating in Multiple Sclerosis Society MS150 fundraising rides. He has also made a huge personal commitment by donating over 300 units of blood, plasma and white blood cells.

Westerman is a member and a certified judge in the Kansas City Barbeque Society, and he has judged over 20 events.



Wilson Yates IV

Wilson (Dave) Yates IV of St. Louis, Missouri operations lead for Brown and Caldwell, earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from S&T in 1995. He has worked for

Burns & McDonnell, CDM and CH2M Hill. His expertise is in water and wastewater systems.

Yates has held leadership roles and contributed to numerous professional engineering and technical organizations, as well as various community service groups. He has contributed to the Missouri Water Environment Association, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Missouri and the Metro Water Infrastructure Partnership. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Heat-Up St. Louis and the Lifetime Honorary Member Award from the St. Louis Engineers' Club.

Dave and his wife, Lisa, enjoy golfing, skiing, music and competing in bodybuilding competitions.

ACADEMY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN STUDENT LIVES

Since 1972 the Academy of Civil Engineers (ACE) has been contributing to the growth and careers of Missouri S&T students. This year we have surpassed 300 active members with the recent induction of 14 new professionals. Our members are recognized for their contributions to the profession, leadership, community and involvement with Missouri S&T.

Our mission remains consistent and this year is focusing upon student recruitment and retention, faculty growth and fundraising, all of which are elements of achieving the "North Star" initiatives set out by **Chancellor Mo Deghani**.

Our beloved **Jerry Bayless**, CE'59, MS CE'62, was perhaps one of our first and strongest advocates on student success.

Imagine being a student with access to a resource that can provide advice on your school experience (undergrad or graduate), starting your career, growing your career and understanding work-life balance. Students can talk with industry recognized technical experts, extraordinary project managers, business owners and even military leaders!

That is why many of our members have joined the "Mentor Collective" and are offering their time and thoughts to students within the CAEE curriculum. We encourage students and alumni to visit the mentoring website at:

ssc.mst.edu/peermentoring/mentorcollective

Further, we have an ongoing fundraising campaign that we are nearing fulfillment but still need your support. Any contributions are appreciated to the "Jerry Bayless Professorship Endowment" which will help us achieve the "faculty growth" initiative.

Use this link or QR code:

Go.mst.edu/jerrybayless

Or you can mail a check to:

Academy of Civil Engineers
Attn. Jocelyn Bates
211 Butler-Carlton Hall,
1401 N. Pine St. Rolla, MO 65409-0030

Be sure to include "Account 716977" on your payment.



2026 Academy Award Winners



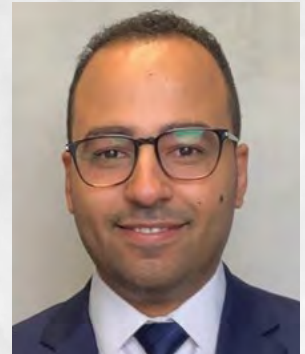
Dr. Genda Chen
Joseph H. Senne Jr.
Faculty Scholarly
Achievement Award



Dr. Joel Burken
Joseph H. Senne Jr. Faculty
Teaching and Service
Achievement Award



Dr. William Gillis
Joseph H. Senne Jr. Faculty
Teaching and Service
Achievement Award



Dr. Emad Hassan
Joseph H. Senne Jr. Faculty
Teaching and Service
Achievement Award



Dr. Eric Showalter
Joseph H. Senne Jr.
Teaching Scholar Award



Ibrahim Alomari
Franklin Y. Cheng
Teaching Scholar Award



Anna Brannon
CArE Engineering
Exemplary Young
Alumni Award



Malachi Rein
CArE Engineering
Exemplary Young
Alumni Award

Neil Stueck Outstanding Seniors



Kellen Badgley



Carly Bruegenhemke



Kayla Edwards



Ankit Goswami



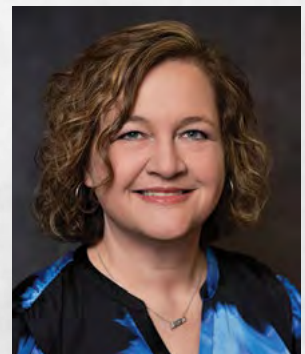
Christy Johnson



Jane Yates



Rachel Johnson
Outstanding Staff Service
to Students and Faculty



Joann Stiritz
Exceptional Staff Service
to the Academy

CAREE Town Halls

Miner alumni around Missouri had the chance to network, hear updates from the department chair and discuss the future of civil, architectural and environmental engineering at S&T during three town halls held this spring. Reports on enrollment growth were shared as well as information about new faculty, historic levels of support and research funding, design teams and student organizations.



Springfield, Mo., Springfield Brewing Company



St. Louis, Clayco



Kansas City, Burns & McDonnell



Order of the Engineer

Engineering seniors recently celebrated their upcoming graduation by joining the Order of the Engineer. The S&T chapter welcomed 188 new members — the largest class on record — as students pledged to uphold the standards, dignity and service of the engineering profession.

Brinkmann receives Kit Bond Award



Bob Brinkmann, CE'71, founder of Brinkmann Constructors, received the 2025 Kit Bond Citizen Leadership Award from the Hawthorn Foundation for Missouri.

The award, named after former U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, recognizes leaders who promote economic prosperity across Missouri.

Gov. Mike Kehoe presented the award, and former Gov. Mike Parson spoke. Brinkmann was recognized for his leadership in the \$2.8 billion Interstate 70 expansion project during his service as chair of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. The project is expected to be completed by 2030.

Brinkmann has served on the S&T Board of Trustees and was part of the 2016 Alumni of Influence class.

He regularly shares his career insights with our graduating seniors.



Lamitola named Outstanding Engineer in Government

Anne Lamitola, CE'00 and Academy of Civil Engineers member, was named the 2026 Outstanding Engineer in Government by the St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE).

Lamitola was formally recognized at the MSPE annual awards banquet for her exceptional leadership and service. With more than 13 years dedicated to the City of Ladue, she currently serves as senior director of public services — a role she carries with integrity, expertise and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Lamitola is respected not only within the engineering profession, but across the local government community. Her steady leadership, thoughtful decision-making, and deep institutional knowledge continue to strengthen the city in meaningful and lasting ways.

Anne Lamitola

Photo by Ft. Wood Photography



Rotty promoted to President of Tarlton

Sondra Rotty has been promoted to president of Tarlton Corporation. In her new position, she will retain her current role of COO. This promotion is the culmination of several years of preparation as Tarlton continues to grow a sustainable construction organization that not only builds excellent projects, but also futures for its clients, communities and teammates.

Rotty earned her bachelor's degree in architectural engineering in 2004 and a master's degree in engineering management in 2008, both from Missouri S&T. She is also an Academy of Civil Engineers member.



VonderHaar promoted

Nichole Vonderhaar, ArchE'15, was promoted from senior project manager to project director at S. M. Wilson & Co. As project director, she provides leadership and operational oversight on a variety of construction projects.

Vonderhaar joined S. M. Wilson in 2015, and has successfully worked on a range of healthcare, retail and education projects.



Myers elected to American Concrete Institute board



Dr. John J. Myers, professor of civil, architectural and environmental engineering, has been elected to a three-year term as a director on the American Concrete Institute's (ACI) Board of Direction.

Myers has been involved with ACI for decades through technical committees, conference leadership, educational programming and research activities. He became an ACI Fellow in 2007 and has organized more than 100 technical and educational sessions at conferences and events.

In 2006, Myers received ACI's Walter P. Moore Jr. Faculty Achievement Award, and in 2009, he earned the Committee Member of the Year Award from ACI's Educational Activities Committee.

Myers joined S&T's faculty in 1999 as an assistant professor of civil, architectural and environmental engineering. He was promoted to associate professor in 2005 and professor in 2013.

In 2023, he became the Missouri S&T director of the Missouri Center for Transportation Innovation. He also previously served as an associate dean and acting dean for S&T's College of Engineering and Computing.

Myers earned a Ph.D. and master's degree in civil engineering at The University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from Pennsylvania State University.



ElGawady elected a Fellow of the American Concrete Institute

Dr. Mohamed ElGawady, a professor of civil engineering and Alard and Sheri Kaplan Faculty Scholar at Missouri S&T, has been elected a Fellow of the American Concrete Institute (ACI).

"I am deeply honored to be elected a Fellow of the American Concrete Institute," ElGawady says. "This recognition reflects the collective achievements of my students, collaborators and mentors who share a commitment to advancing resilient and sustainable infrastructure. It strengthens my resolve to continue serving the profession and preparing the next generation of engineers to lead with innovation and purpose."

ACI is an international organization that develops and shares knowledge on concrete materials, design and construction that has approximately 40,000 members across 120 countries. Fellows must have at least 15 years of ACI membership and are selected based on outstanding contributions to the field and significant service to the institute.

An expert in concrete structures and their performance under extreme conditions, ElGawady is recognized by a Stanford University analysis as being among the world's top 2% most-cited civil engineering researchers both in recent years and throughout his career.

ElGawady joined the Missouri S&T faculty in 2012 and was promoted to professor in 2018. Last year, he served as interim chair of civil, architectural and environmental engineering at S&T. The year prior, he was on sabbatical from S&T and was the deputy nuclear portfolio lead in the Operational Energy-Innovation office for the U.S. Department of Defense.

He previously held academic positions in Egypt, Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia and Japan, as well as the United States.

ElGawady earned a Ph.D. in structural engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne and both a master's degree in structural engineering and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cairo University in Egypt.



Pictured from left to right are Dr. Nicolas Libre, Dr. David Borrok, Dean of the College of Engineering and Computing, Dr. Jenny Liu and Dr. Karan Venayagamoorthy, department chair.

College honors CArEE faculty

Two of our faculty members received recognition from the Missouri S&T College of Engineering and Computing (CEC).

DEAN'S EDUCATOR AWARD: Dr. Nicolas Libre

"Dr. Libre exemplifies excellence in teaching, innovation and service. He is a dedicated and forward-thinking educator whose work has positively impacted on thousands of students and educators alike."

DEAN'S SERVICE AWARD: Dr. Jenny Liu

"Over the past five years, Dr. Liu has demonstrated exceptional service contributions both within the university and to the broader professional community. Her impactful work spans three key areas: student recruitment, advising and mentoring, and service effectiveness."

Oerther calls for ethical shift

Dr. Daniel B. Oerther, professor of environmental engineering, authored an article published in the *Journal of Environmental Engineering*, a publication of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The article, titled "Hold Paramount the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Public and the Planet," urged a redefinition of engineering ethics.

Building on his previous work framing environmental engineering as addressing planetary health, Oerther argued that engineers must elevate the planet's well-being alongside public health and safety.

"Elevating the planet on par with the obligation to hold paramount the needs of the public are required in an era of global environmental degradation and a realization that all life is interconnected," Oerther wrote.

El-adaway appointed associate provost for St. Louis operations



Dr. Islam El-adaway has been appointed associate provost for St. Louis operations. El-adaway will lead and coordinate efforts to expand Missouri S&T's academic presence

in the St. Louis metropolitan area, which accounts for about 40% of Missouri's workforce and an even larger share of economic activity. He previously served as associate dean for academic partnerships and, most recently, as director of corporate partnerships for the Missouri S&T College of Engineering and Computing.

Schroer receives Excellence in Review Award



Dr. Hunter Schroer, assistant professor of environmental engineering, received an Excellence in Review Award from the *Journal of Environmental Science &*

Technology. This recognition is given to reviewers who have supported the journal with high frequency, providing in-depth, rigorous, constructive and professional high-quality peer reviews on a timely basis.

Learn more about what makes great reviews so special at:

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.5c16701>.



Pictured from left to right: Ruben Snellings – KU Leuven, Belgium; Mohend Chaouche – Université Paris-Saclay, France; Martin Cyr – Université de Toulouse, France; Donal O’Riain, Founder and Managing Director of Ecoce; Roberta Alfani, Research and Innovation Director, Ecocem; Arezki Tagnit Hamou – Université de Sherbrooke, Canada; Kamal Khayat – Missouri S&T; R. Douglas Hooton – University of Toronto, Canada; Rafael G. Pileggi – University of São Paulo, Brazil; Ciaran McNally – University College Dublin, Ireland; and Hongyan Ma – Missouri S&T.

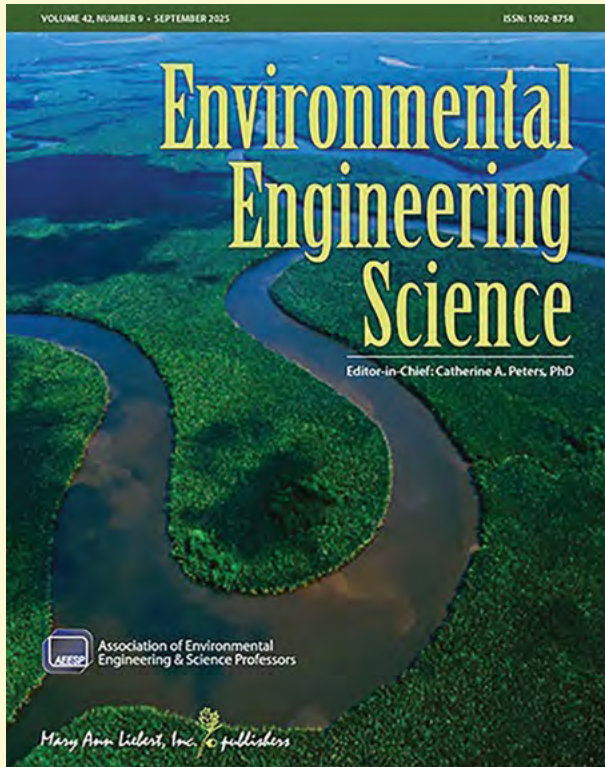
Faculty invited to join Ecocem’s Global Materials Science Advisory Council

Two of our foremost materials scientists, **Dr. Kamal Khayat** and **Dr. Hongyan Ma**, were selected by Ecocem to serve alongside 10 other world-recognized experts on a Materials Science Advisory Council to support the development and adoption of low-carbon cement solutions globally. The creation of the council follows the conclusion of Ecocem’s Science Symposium in Paris in November, where leading academics and industry stakeholders shared insights and updates on next generation low-carbon cement technologies and heard from construction industry partners on the large-scale deployment of low-carbon cement and concrete on live sites.

For 25 years, Ecocem has developed and supplied low-carbon cement solutions across Europe. It operates from two plants in France, as well as sites in the Netherlands and Ireland, producing over two million tonnes of low-carbon cement each year.



Hongyan Ma



Environmental engineering professors referenced

Two environmental engineering professors — **Dr. Joel Burken** and **Dr. Dan Oerther** — were referenced in *Environmental Engineering Science's* article "Taking on Today's Environmental Grand Challenges" authored by Catherine A. Peters. This marks the 28th year of *Environmental Engineering Science* in its current configuration as one of the premier journals in the profession.

Both environmental engineering professors and both fellows of the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP), have made valuable contributions to the profession and journal.

Under Burken's leadership, as 2011-12 AEESP president, he established the ad hoc committee and conducted a survey to assess the pending partnership with the journal, culminating with a majority of AEESP members supporting the affiliation.

Oerther, a frequent contributor, has written insightful pieces on many environmental engineering and scientific discoveries, teaching in the virtual classroom and sustainable development.



Eric Showalter



Daniel Oerther

Faculty honored for years of service and dedication

Two of our faculty members were honored for their years of dedication and service to campus during the General Faculty meeting held in December 2025.

- **Dr. Eric Showalter**, assistant chair and teaching professor, was honored for 25 years of service.
- **Dr. Daniel Oerther**, professor of environmental engineering, was honored for 15 years of service.

Academic Analytics recognizes professors

Academic Analytics recognized two of our named professors for ranking in the top 5% of their peers across four or more scholarly activity metrics.

- **Dr. Islam El-adaway**, associate provost for St. Louis Operations and the Hurst-McCarthy Endowed Professor of Construction Engineering and Management.
- **Dr. Kamal Khayat**, vice chancellor for research and innovation, professor and the Vernon and Maralee Jones Chair of Civil Engineering.

Schroer receives funding

Dr. Hunter Schroer, assistant professor of environmental engineering, who is listed among a group of early career researchers on eight cross-disciplinary teams, received funding during the second year of Scialog: Sustainable Minerals, Metals, and Materials. His work on buoyant microbes for bioflotation and coarse mineral separations is part of Scialog's three-year initiative catalyzing cutting-edge basic science to address how critical materials that sustain our high-tech society are acquired, used and recycled.

McEvilly (continued from pg. 4)

has been named vice president of the board. Lang earned a bachelor's degree in mining engineering from S&T in 1983 and is a 2006 graduate of the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program. Lang was inducted into S&T's Mining and Metallurgical Academy in 2010 and received an Award of Professional Distinction in mining engineering in 2006. Among his many contributions to the field, Lang served as chair of the board of the National Mining Association and formerly chaired the University of the Wyoming School of Energy Resources Council.

Outgoing president Steven Wunning joined the Board of Trustees in 2008 and served as vice president from 2022-24 and president from 2024-26. In his 41-year career at Caterpillar, he held a variety of leadership roles and was elected corporate vice president in 1998 and group president and executive office member in 2004, a position he held until his retirement in 2015. Wunning earned a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from S&T in 1973 and an Executive Master of Business Administration from the University of Illinois in 1987. S&T honored him with an Award of Professional Distinction in 2004.

"I want to thank Steve for his outstanding leadership and years of dedicated service," says Chancellor Mo Dehghani.

McEvilly will convene his first meeting as board president this September in Rolla. The Board of Trustees brings together alumni and friends whose accomplishments and insight help chart Missouri S&T's future. Its mission spans advising the chancellor, championing the university's goals to key stakeholders, and securing vital support.



Alumni support Envision Sustainability Professional training for S&T students

Fifteen students in the department joined together this spring for a special extracurricular career opportunity due to the generous support of some incredible Miner alumni.

The Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) training course was offered by **Will Kirby**, ArchE'08, CE'08, from HDR Engineering. Kirby is a certified trainer for the ENV SP course and met with students online before coming to campus and doing an in-person training session to complete their certification. HDR supported his commitment of time towards our students and the Academy of Civil Engineers picked up his travel expenses.

To further support, each student in the program received a scholarship from Tarlton Corp., whose president is alumna **Sondra Rotty**, ArchE'04, MS EMgt'08. Rotty felt compelled to also support our students in their training with the scholarships covering the majority of fees.

This is a great example of dedicated Miner alumni giving back and accelerating the growth of current students.

Yan delivers keynote at global summit

Dr. Grace Yan, professor of civil, architectural and environmental engineering, presented a keynote address at the 7th Global Summit of the Global Alliance for Disaster Resilience Institute, held in July in Fort Collins, Colorado. The international conference convenes leading researchers in hazards and disaster resilience from around the world to share advancements in the field.

Yan's keynote, titled "Dance in Harmony with the Twister: One Step Back and Two Steps Forward toward Tornado Resilience," highlighted findings from four ongoing National Science Foundation projects and additional research.



Grace Yan

PRAKASH PASSES AWAY IN INDIA

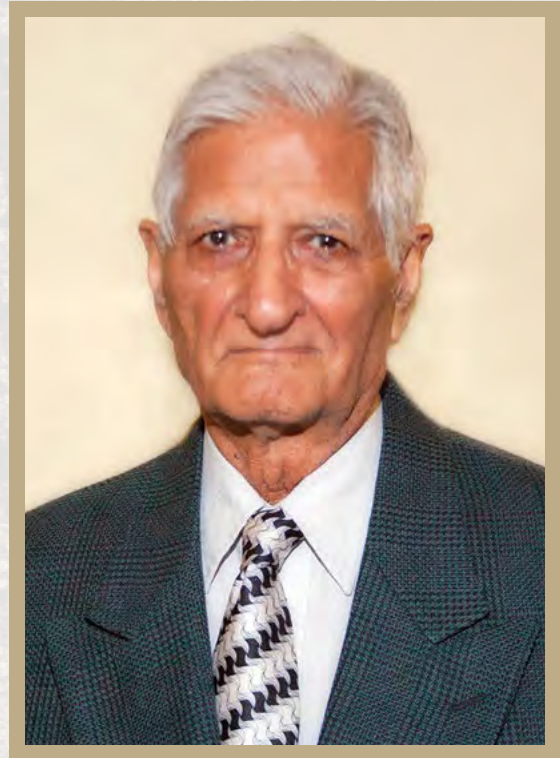
Dr. Shamsher Prakash passed away Dec. 2, 2025, in Roorkee, India, where he spent the last few years of his life.

Prakash, a professor in geotechnical engineering, was an international expert in soil dynamics and earthquake engineering and a pioneer in the liquefaction of silts and clays and soil-pile-structure interactions. He was best known for organizing the well-known International Conferences on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering. The use of the information from these conference proceedings will carry on his tremendous legacy for designing and constructing projects which advanced civilization while keeping the environment and public health, safety and comfort the focus.



Shamsher and Sally Prakash

more than a mentor; he was family. His legacy lives in the lives he touched through his work, mentorship, and compassion,” said one of his former students, Sanjeev Kumar, who is now the Jerome J. Lohr Endowed Dean/Professor at South Dakota State University.



Prakash joined the Missouri S&T Civil Engineering Department in 1978 as an associate professor of geotechnical engineering — spending more than four decades influencing generations of students, graduates, professionals, colleagues, and friends. He retired in 2000 as a professor emeritus and remained very active with his conferences and professional service for many years.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Roorkee (now IIT Roorkee) in 1954 and obtained his master’s degree and Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1962.

At S&T, Prakash was a member of the Academy of Civil Engineers, and he established a scholarship in his name along with the Shamsher & Sally Prakash Distinguished Lecture Series in Geotechnical Engineering. He was also a Distinguished Member (Dist.M.ASCE) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and established the national ASCE Shamsher Prakash Award & Lecture and the St. Louis ASCE Section Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship.



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HOMECOMING GALA

Thursday, Oct. 15
Miner Alumni Association

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