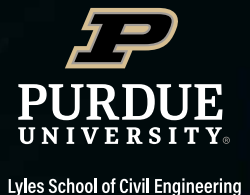


TRANSITIONS

20 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE
AT SCALE

Bowen Lab marks two decades of innovation
in large-scale civil engineering research [PAGE 6](#)





MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL HEAD

Heading into 2024, I find myself — once again — in a reflective state as I write this message.

This past year has been one of many incredible achievements and efforts made by our alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends. From responding to natural disasters around the world to innovating on structure design in our labs at Hampton Hall, the past 12 months have seen many giant leaps forward into shaping the future of the world for the better.

We also have seen more than 250 students earn a degree from the Lyles School of Civil Engineering and have read about and watched countless news stories featuring the amazing work done by our alumni and friends. Purdue civil engineering continually is seen as a world-leader in innovation and dedication — and it is because of each and every one of you that our reputation grew even further in 2023.

I, personally, witnessed just how far-reaching both our reputation and impact truly was over the past year. For the first six months of 2023, I was on sabbatical where I was able to meet researchers and school heads and spoke at a number of universities around the world.

It was almost overwhelming to hear the stories of inspiration they drew from our work and research as well as their eagerness to seek further collaboration due to how globally respected and proven Purdue civil engineers are. It was clear that when it came to seeking excellence in civil engineering, Purdue civil engineers were at the top of everyone's lists.

This recognition has also extended into a number of awards and accolades our school, alumni and friends have amassed over the year. From national and international research and achievement awards to community honors, it was rare for a week to go by where I did not read about someone connected the Lyles School of Civil Engineering being recognized.

And in this edition of "Transitions" magazine, we have shared a few of those stories of excellence and achievements. The stories in this edition, of course, are just a small fraction of the incredible work being done — and I encourage you all to reach out and share your stories with me.

Thank you to everyone who made 2023 such a wonderful year — and I eagerly look forward to what we will achieve together in 2024.

All the best,

Rao S. Govindaraju,
*Bowen Engineering Head of Civil Engineering and
Christopher B. and Susan S. Burke Distinguished Professor
of Civil Engineering*

TRANSITIONS

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ON THE COVER

The 66,000 square-foot Robert L. and Terry L. Bowen Laboratory for Large-Scale Civil Engineering Research provides the space and technical capability to investigate the behavior of large structural models and elements subjected to loads representing extreme events, such as earthquakes, blasts and impact, so that future structures will be designed to better withstand these extreme events. The lab's strong floor, clear ceiling height of 54 feet, loading apparatus and advanced instrumentation set a new standard for materials and structures testing.

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PURDUE
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Lyles School of Civil Engineering



AN EPIC CAREER



**IN FOUR DECADES AT TURNER CONSTRUCTION,
PETE MITNICK CONTRIBUTED TO SOME OF THE
COUNTRY'S MOST BELOVED STRUCTURES**

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland, OH

From hotels and museums to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, this Purdue alumnus has been involved in the creation of some of Ohio's most well-known and beloved structures.

Over the course of his 43-year career at Turner Construction Company, Pete Mitnick (BSCE '77) was involved in major development projects across the United States. When he retired in 2020 as a senior project manager, Mitnick had more than 20 construction projects to his name that included academic buildings, high rise office towers, production facilities, museums, five-star hotels and conference centers, hospitals, corporate headquarters and convention centers — many of which were projects that exceeded well over \$100 million in construction costs.

“When you start putting all your projects together and looking back on them, you realize just how different each project was and the new experience you gained from it that carried on to the next project,” Mitnick said. “There are certainly some people out there who are purely high rise or hospital experts, but I'm thankful I was able to get involved in a little bit of everything. I experienced so many unique challenges and new ideas because of it.”

A Michigan City, Indiana, native with siblings who also attended Purdue University, Mitnick said he knew early on he was destined to become a Boilermaker. However, what exactly he planned to major in was not nearly as clear-cut.

“I started off thinking I was going to study veterinary medicine but it just was not for me,” Mitnick said. “My brother, Jim (BSCE '71), studied civil engineering and so I figured I would give it a try and see if it was a good fit for me.”

From there, Mitnick continued his studies and enrolled in a summer work program with Turner Construction Company — the same company where he would spend the rest of his career. Over the following decades, Mitnick worked on and led construction projects in

Cleveland, Chicago, Cincinnati and Washington, D.C.

“I've had the opportunity to play a part in a lot of major construction projects in a number of communities,” Mitnick said. “The museums and downtown revitalization projects were some that I was especially proud to be a part of.”

One of Mitnick's most notable projects was the construction of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. Known for its unique design and historic content, the museum sees more than 500,000 visitors each year and has hosted some of the most famous musical artists in the world.

However, Mitnick said, while he recognizes the significance of the project, he tries not to hold it above the others.

“Every project to me was very important — I try not to make a big deal out of it,” Mitnick said. “That said, it was definitely one of my most iconic, high-profile projects and it was incredibly challenging. It was a landmark building for the city and the responsibility and importance was something my team and I were always aware of. Thankfully, I had an incredible team and we ended up delivering something truly special.”

Mitnick said that — like with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame project — what he most fondly remembers are the people he worked with and the special friendship his teams developed.

“What they don't often talk about when you're studying civil engineering is how much people management is involved,” Mitnick said. “Throughout the process you're working with so many people from all different levels and skills and you need to understand and balance that. And the most important people are the ones you manage. Some of my fondest memories are those first few planning meetings with a new team. It's where you set the foundations and establish the expectations for everything to come together and it's those people that are going to be there for you to see the project through to the end.”



Cleveland Convention Center



Queen City Square, Cincinnati, OH



Cleveland Clinic InterContinental Hotel & Conference Center



Hilton Cleveland Downtown



Innovative Public Infrastructure

Erica Johnson spearheads massive double decker bridge project spanning Ohio River

One of the biggest, most ambitious design projects in America is underway — and a Purdue civil engineering alumna is leading it.

Earlier this fall, work officially began on the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project — a \$3.6 billion infrastructure investment that will span from the Greater Cincinnati area to northern Kentucky. This double-decker bridge over the Ohio River will be a companion to the existing Brent Spence Bridge I-71/I-75 highway and allow the existing bridge to be used for local traffic. It is expected to be completed in 2029.

Leading as project manager is HNTB vice president and Lyles School of Civil Engineering alumna Erica Johnson (BSCE '00). Johnson has been involved in the design, planning and coordination of the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor for the past two years and says she is excited to see work begin.

“The work behind the scenes has been immense; an unbelievable amount of thought and care has gone into this to make it both an asset to all travelers and to enhance the surrounding areas,” Johnson said. “We want this to improve the lives of commuters and locals and stand the test of time.”



➤ **LEARN MORE**
 about the Brent Spence
 Bridge Corridor project at
brentspencebridgecorridor.com

The Brent Spence Bridge Corridor project will also incorporate new and improved shared use paths, sidewalks and bike paths, including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on connections across I-71/I-75, to better connect communities.

Johnson said that the community reaction and feedback they have received over the years has also been vital to their planning process.

“Whenever you have a project of this scale, you want to hear from the people who will be most affected by it,” Johnson said. “The feedback and positive responses we’ve received have been very encouraging and the teamwork demonstrated by the governmental departments has only served to improve the planning process.”

LEADING UP TO THE BRIDGE PROJECT

A Farmland, Indiana native, Johnson said her lifelong love of math and science is ultimately what led her to study civil engineering at Purdue.

“I’ve always had a sense that I wanted to pursue a career where I could build something,” she said. “And once I got to Purdue, I pretty much knew right away that I wanted to become a civil engineer. The ability to help states, cities and towns to creatively solve public infrastructure problems fit with my passion for helping people.”

Johnson earned a dual degree in transportation engineering and surveying and credits Professors Jon Fricker and Steven Johnson as her biggest influences.

“I received a lot of guidance from them and without Professor Fricker, I am not even sure I would have pursued transportation engineering,” Johnson said. “His intro course was just so interesting that I ended up deciding that it was what I wanted to pursue as a career.”

After earning her degree in 2000, Johnson worked at American Structurepoint for four years before transitioning to HNTB where she also contributed to the LaGuardia Airport redevelopment project and served as lead designer of the Kosciuszko Bridge in Brooklyn.



“Whenever you have a project of this scale, you want to hear from the people who will be most affected by it.”

ERICA JOHNSON



CE 299 SUMMER COURSE

DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Over the summer, high school students from around the world came to Purdue University for its weeklong civil engineering course: Developing Tomorrow's Infrastructure. Throughout the week, the students learned about how civil engineers change the world and the critical role they will continue to play in the future.

The students also toured campus; met with faculty at Hampton Hall and Bowen Laboratory; and participated in several projects where they solved puzzles, worked as a team and gained a better understanding of how civil engineers approach a challenge.

A photograph of two researchers in a laboratory setting. They are wearing white hard hats and safety glasses. The researcher on the left is wearing a black t-shirt with a circular logo that says "UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN". The researcher on the right is wearing a grey t-shirt with a large "P" logo. They are standing on a metal platform with blue hydraulic legs, working on a large-scale experiment. The background shows a complex industrial environment with various pipes, cables, and structural elements.

20 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE
AT SCALE

BOWEN LAB MARKS
TWO DECADES
OF INNOVATION
IN LARGE-SCALE
CIVIL ENGINEERING
RESEARCH

First-time visitors to the Robert L. and Terry L. Bowen Laboratory for Large-Scale Civil Engineering Research know they're entering a large facility, but before stepping foot inside, it's difficult to comprehend just how big Bowen Lab truly is. Amit Varma, the Karl H. Kettelhut Professor of Civil Engineering and director of Bowen Lab, enjoys that element of surprise.

After donning the appropriate personal protective gear — safety is a very important aspect of the lab's culture — Varma tells his guests to brace themselves. “When I open the door and show them the laboratory, there's an audible gasp once they see how big it is,” he said.

Dedicated in October 2003, then-university President Martin Jischke hailed Bowen Lab as “the world's most modern, well-equipped lab for large-scale testing.” It's a status Varma and other leaders in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering have worked hard to maintain.

Bob Bowen (BSCE'62) and his wife, Terry, provided a \$2.25 million gift to the Purdue Research Foundation toward the \$11 million lab, which was built with private funding from about 50 donors. Bowen Lab marked its 20th anniversary in 2023.

IMPROVING THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

When Bowen Lab opened, it gave researchers six times more space than what had previously been available in the university's old structural testing lab, built in 1952. Mark Bowman (BSCE'74, MSCE'75), professor emeritus of civil engineering and director of the Bowen Lab from 2010 to 2017, first worked in the old lab space as student, helping Jim Meyers (MSCE'60, PhD CE'63), professor emeritus, with his research on hyperbolic shells.

“The structural testing lab was small, only about 60 feet by 60 feet,” said Bowman, who later became director of the lab. “It had its own version of a strong floor where we could test structural specimens, but there were columns right through the middle of the space. It wasn't open, it was very constrained. It was valuable space at the time, but it limited the types of projects we could work on.”

Following the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake near Los Angeles in 1994, Bowman received a call inquiring whether Purdue could conduct steel structural testing on beam-to-column joints. Bowman had to pass on the project because the

university's facilities couldn't accommodate projects of that scale. Now, Varma routinely fields inquiries about Bowen's extraordinary capabilities.

“Over the past 20 years, Bowen Lab has significantly contributed to the improvement of the nation's infrastructure,” Varma said. “From influencing the design of high rise buildings to the construction of nuclear power plants, bridges



Amit Varma is the Karl H. Kettelhut Professor of Civil Engineering and director of Bowen Lab.

and other structures related to national defense and security, Bowen Lab continues to serve as the premier facility for large-scale testing of civil engineering, structural components, connections and systems. Not to mention the 1,000-plus people — faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, post-docs, visiting scholars, research engineers and technicians — whose careers have been enriched by conducting research in one of the world's largest, most well-equipped and prestigious laboratories.”

The 66,000 square-foot facility with its 11,000 square foot strong floor continues to earn recognition. Projects supported by Bowen Lab research have been recipients of the Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 2020, the American Concrete Institute awarded Bowen Lab with the Charles S. Whitney Medal for engineering development. In 2023, the Bechtel Corp. presented Bowen Lab with its Innovation of the Year award for contributions to a large-scale government project.

“Our partnership with Purdue helped us develop a new approach to a construction challenge on



“You spend a lifetime building a corporation, an organization, and work hard to make it a success. When all is said and done, you consider it a privilege to give something back to the place where you gained the training and education that made it all possible.”

**BOB BOWEN
(BSCE'62)**

Founder and former CEO of Bowen Engineering, speaking during the dedication of Bowen Lab in October 2003

a project with U.S. national security implications,” said Keith Churchill (BSCE'06), chief innovation officer at Bechtel. “Partnerships with research institutions like this are valuable to the industry, bringing new ideas and scientific rigor to innovations that improve our processes.”

INSPIRING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

As soon as it opened, Bowen Lab quickly became a draw to recruit faculty researchers to the university. When Bowman took over as lab director, he continued to build up and organize the equipment to ensure Bowen could meet the needs of varied research projects.

“My goal was to make sure faculty had the equipment and space to do what they wanted,” Bowman said. “I also implemented some policies to bring more organization to govern the lab. It doesn’t sound very sexy, but that transformation allowed the lab to flourish. Since the construction of the Bowen Lab, we have been able to recruit some exceptional faculty, many of whom are leaders in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering today.”

Over the past several years, Varma has tripled the number of laboratory technicians, invested in new equipment — including data acquisition systems and structure loading equipment — and increased the number of undergraduate students

working in the lab by more than 50%.

“We’re intentionally engaging more with our undergraduate student researchers,” Varma said. “Working in Bowen Lab is a transformative experience. They get a chance to see experiments up close and personal. The principles they’ve learned from textbooks come alive. Interacting with the physical world broadens a student’s understanding of civil engineering.”

As Varma looks forward to Bowen’s next 20 years, he envisions more projects related to national defense and security. Which means one of the lab’s biggest assets also becomes a strategic challenge. Bowen is so big a football field could fit inside of its massive open space. That makes it difficult to conduct controlled or classified experiments that require some degree of secrecy.

“Whatever defines you also constrains you,” Varma said. “We may explore opportunities to reconfigure or expand to create restricted access portions of the laboratory. In addition to more proprietary work, we would very much like to conduct bigger missile impact-related tests and we certainly will be able to contribute to the sustainability question facing the country in terms of new materials. Whether it’s revitalizing deteriorating infrastructure or contributing to national defense, we want to be the cradle of innovative solutions that emerge in civil engineering over the next 20 years.”



A LEGACY OF MENTORSHIP

MARK BOWMAN, RETIRED DIRECTOR OF BOWEN LAB, REFLECTS ON HIS 42-PLUS YEARS ON FACULTY



Mark Bowman (BSCE'74, MSCE'75) visited his first construction site as a kid. His father, John Bowman (BSCE'42), had an architectural and engineering firm, Medland and Bowman, based in Logansport, Indiana.

"My father would take me out to job sites to help with surveys and things," said Bowman, professor emeritus of civil engineering. "His firm did work in a six county area around Cass County. They built all kinds of schools and banks and churches — you name it. They weren't gigantic structures, but the structures they built are important to the people who live in those communities."

Those trips with his father imbued Bowman with a love of civil engineering and set him on a course that would culminate in a 42 and a half year-career on Purdue's faculty including seven years as director of the Robert L. and Terry L. Bowen Laboratory for Large-Scale Civil Engineering Research. John Bowman died of cancer while his son was still in high school, but the elder Bowman's enthusiasm for Purdue and civil engineering left an indelible mark.

"I looked up to my dad a lot growing up," Bowman said. "At the time, I didn't realize how much my interactions with him influenced my decision to become a civil engineer. I always had an interest in building things, that's what I wanted to do. My dad brought me to the Purdue campus many times so I was pretty sold on Purdue early on."

As an undergraduate in the early 1970s, Bowman joined Triangle Fraternity and was active in the Purdue chapter of Chi Epsilon, the national civil engineering honor society, two student organizations for which he'd later serve as longtime advisor after joining the Purdue faculty.

First, Bowman spent two years working in industry in Michigan after graduating with his master's from Purdue. He designed structures built with prestressed precast concrete in a six-state region in the Midwest. Eager for his next challenge, he decided to continue his education.

Bowman earned his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. There, his research focused on steel design and involved projects with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the U.S. Navy. He interviewed with a few different universities as well as big oil companies.

"I basically ended up with offers from all of them and I had to decide whether I wanted to go the industrial route or go into

education," Bowman said. "Education was attractive because of the chance to do independent research as well as teaching. I love interacting with students in the classroom."

Bowman joined the Purdue faculty in the spring semester of 1981. In his four decades teaching, he remained driven by the quality of the students — many of whom have gone on to have remarkable careers in civil engineering themselves. Ron Klemencic (BSCE'85) is CEO of Magnusson Klemencic Associates, an international, award-winning structural and civil engineering firm headquartered in Seattle. Bowman, along with Mike Kreger, former director of Bowen Lab, collaborated with Klemencic on a project that involved one of the largest specimens that's ever been built at Bowen.

The large, double-skinned steel structure with an infill of concrete went up just shy of the top of Bowen's 40-foot strong wall. That full circle moment of seeing a student he once mentored in the old civil engineering structural lab now becoming a project partner in the large-scale research lab fills Bowman with pride. But it's only one story of thousands he could tell.

"So many of my students have gone on to have successful careers in the field," Bowman said. "I've been involved in a lot of influential research projects, but even then, it was the students I was working with and training who went out and did well for themselves — that's what makes me proud."

The shift to online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic brought the possibility of retirement into sharp focus for Bowman. Though he loved engaging students in the classroom, uploading recorded lectures to a virtual platform wasn't fulfilling.

"When you're just talking to the wall, there's nothing worse than that," Bowman said. "Teaching in person enables direct interaction and dialogue with others. Working in a facility like Bowen, you can't replicate that experience online."

Since he retired in June 2023, Bowman and his wife, Barbara, have had more time to travel and visit their six grandchildren. But even though he's busy in retirement, Bowman still keeps a pulse on Purdue.

"There's always going to be a need for civil engineering," he said. "Purdue's facilities and equipment position the university at the forefront of our discipline. Continued investment in expert faculty who develop a high caliber of students will ensure we remain a leader in the field."



IN COMMAND

Captain Constance Solina is the first woman to lead the Seabees naval construction group



“We Build. We Fight.” That’s the motto of the Seabees, the construction team that crafts the U.S. Navy’s infrastructure from the ground up, literally paving the way to victory. The Naval Construction Group Two (NCG 2) mans, trains, equips and operationally employs the Atlantic Fleet’s naval construction forces.

On July 7 during a ceremony in Gulfport, Mississippi, Capt. Constance (Danner) Solina (BSCE’00) assumed command of NCG 2. She is the first woman to serve as the commodore of a naval construction group.

be accomplished and steps into the void to meet the needs. She projects confidence and delivers on her commitments. She set a great example of professionalism for the team.”

Solina attended Purdue on an ROTC scholarship and after graduating with her bachelor’s in civil engineering with an emphasis on environmental engineering, she was commissioned as an ensign in the Navy. In 2006, she earned her master’s degree in environmental and water resource engineering from the University of Texas. Throughout her career in the Navy, Solina has



“I am humbled, privileged and honored to assume command of NCG 2,” Solina said. “There have been a lot of great leaders ahead of me who paved the way.”

Solina seemed destined for a career in the Navy before she ever stepped foot on Purdue’s campus. Her grandfather served in the Navy during World War II and her father joined the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Her family’s Old Gold and Black legacy — her grandfather, aunt and both of her parents graduated from Purdue — combined with the strong reputation of the Lyles School of Civil Engineering set her on the path to becoming a Boilermaker. Working on water systems projects with the Fairfax County Water Authority while in high school led to an interest in the environment and water resources that she cultivated at Purdue.

“I was part of a senior design project working with Professor Larry Nies where we proposed an economic solution for treating recouped water from an acid mine,” Solina said.

Her team won the WERC Environmental Design Contest, a national competition hosted by New Mexico State University. Nies, professor of civil engineering and environmental and ecological engineering, recalls Solina exemplifying exceptional leadership skills as a student.

“Constance possesses numerous personal traits that significantly contribute to her leadership ability,” Nies said. “She sees what needs to

relied on the foundational education she received as an undergraduate.

“Engineering teaches you problem-solving techniques, and military life is all about problem-solving,” she said. “Engineers have the critical thinking skills to not only foresee problems but also to provide solutions. The rigorous coursework taught me how to manage stress in the right way, which is essential when you’re relied upon to make leadership decisions in high-stakes situations.”

Solina will serve in her command post for two years. She’s one of seven women out of 78 captains on active duty in the Civil Engineer Corps. As commander of NCG 2, she wants to create a positive command climate ensuring the Seabees are structured and prepared to meet the demands of the national defense strategy.

“I’ve never had a bad day in the Navy,” Solina said. “Every assignment comes with its own challenges, but I’ve always been able to make a positive influence. If I can be an inspiration to others, that’s great. It’s difficult to raise a family while pursuing a professional career in the military, but it can be done.

“I have four rules for my kids at home — respect, responsibility, accountability and integrity. Those are the guiding principles stated in my commander’s intent, too. Take care of yourself, your family and each other. Stay safe and enjoy what you’re doing.”

“I’ve never had a bad day in the Navy. Every assignment comes with its own challenges, but I’ve always been able to make a positive influence.”

CAPTAIN CONSTANCE SOLINA (BSCE’00)

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Congratulations to our outstanding Lyles School of Civil Engineering alumni who were recognized with the Civil Engineering Alumni Achievement Award (CEAAA) and the Distinguished Engineering Alumni (DEA) Award. Our alumni have a long, proud history of excellence and this year's awardees could not be more deserving of these recognitions.



2023 CEAAA RECIPIENTS

From left to right: Mark E. Bernhardt (BSCE '91), president and CEO, Burgess and Niple, Inc.; Christopher B. Gale (BSCE '95), Great Lakes Division President, HNTB Corporation; Carol J. Drucker (BSCE '85), principal, Drucker Zajdel Structural Engineers; Robert M. Scaer (BSCE '82), Chief Executive Officer, Gannett Fleming Inc.; James A. Soltesz (BSCE '76), President and CEO, Soltesz Inc.



2023 DEA RECIPIENTS

Jalal A. Nafakh (BSCE '83, MSCE '84, PhD CE '87)
Chief Transportation Planner, Royal Commission for Riyadh City, Saudi Arabia
Beginning his career as a transportation planner with the Royal Commission for Riyadh City (RCRC), Nafakh rose through the ranks to his current position of chief transportation

planner. In this role, he has been involved in the promotion, mobilization and management of major projects for the betterment of RCRC. For the Riyadh 2030 project, he presided over the multi-disciplinary task force formed to shape city policy to ensure sustainable growth.

Erin J. Flanigan (BSCE '87)
Principal, Transportation Operations and Safety, Applied Research Associates Inc.
Flanigan is considered a national expert in transportation systems management and operations (TSMO) that advance emerging technology applications to improve the safety and mobility of the transportation system. She has been in the consulting engineering industry her whole career supporting a wide range of public sector

clients. Her work has helped State DOTs shift from being builders of our roadway system to agencies focused on managing and operating the transportation system.

Nancy E. Uridil (BSCE '74)
Independent Director, FHLB Cincinnati
Throughout her career, Uridil leveraged her engineering degree and experience opening doors to becoming a multi-sector global executive. For 40 years — 18 of which were spent as a senior vice president on executive teams — Uridil built global supply chains, innovative organizations, iconic brands and multiple new products. As senior vice president of Global Operations at Moen, Uridil had the privilege of leading more than 2,500 people and a \$880 million budget.

GREETINGS FROM ERIC PUTMAN

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER // LYLES SCHOOL OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

As we close out the year the most important message I can share with you is “thank you.” All of us here in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering remain grateful for your commitment as Purdue alumni who Stay Connected, Get Involved and Give Back.

The Lyles School of Civil Engineering was pleased to receive the recognition earlier this fall as the No. 4 ranked undergraduate program in the country. The honor signals the impact and momentum which you have helped to make possible. You have helped to facilitate meaningful research that is timely and applicable to industry, supported students with generous scholarships and equipped the school with resources to attract and retain exceptional faculty. Thank you!

The STAY CONNECTED mission of the Purdue for Life Foundation speaks to the value we find in the personal and professional relationships across the entire Purdue community. To keep up with timely communication about events, accomplishments, and your fellow civil engineering alumni, I encourage you to follow the Lyles School of Civil Engineering on LinkedIn.

We remain grateful for friends and alumni who joined us on campus this year and I encourage you to take a moment today and add a few dates to your 2024 calendar:

- // Bowen Lab 20th Anniversary event on Friday, April 5, 2024.
- // Civil Engineering Donor Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, September 26, 2024, in the Purdue Memorial Union Ballroom.
- // Homecoming is scheduled for September 28, 2024, when our Purdue Boilermakers take on the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

The challenge to GET INVOLVED includes Purdue alumni club participation, speaking to classes and even student mentoring. And this publication also allows us to share some of the stories of your fellow Boilermaker alumni who demonstrate special generosity as they GIVE BACK.

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, the 619 undergraduate students and the 457 graduate students enrolled in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering this year are being trained to make their mark on the world. Their life as a Boilermaker is only beginning and over the course of their career, each one will join a robust community of Purdue alumni who are expected to address great challenges around the world.

Many of you reading this magazine have made the principles of Purdue for Life your own. We are grateful that you have stayed connected. We are grateful that you have chosen to get involved. And we are incredibly appreciative of your decision to fund scholarships, support faculty and invest in the research and teaching mission of Purdue.

I hope you are encouraged to know you are making a difference in the lives of today's students, and I trust you will read and enjoy the insights on how much we value your partnership.

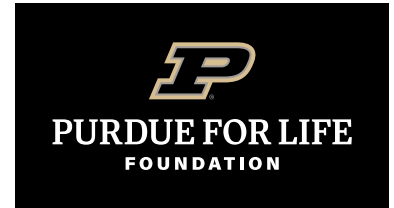
We continue to be grateful for you and if you would like to start a new conversation about how you can Get Connected, Stay Involved and/or Give Back, I invite you to email me at EAPutman@purdueforlife.org.

Hail Purdue — and Boiler Up!



Eric Putman

Chief Development Officer, Lyles School of Civil Engineering
University Development Office, Purdue for Life Foundation



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