

TRANSITIONS

PIONEERING HANDS-ON BRIDGE ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Addition of multipurpose facility
would enhance training and
research opportunities at Center
for Aging Infrastructure [PAGE 6](#)



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Lyles School of Civil and
Construction Engineering



MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL HEAD

It has been a momentous year for the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering.

Most notably, the July 1 merger with the Division of Construction Engineering Management ushered in a new era. Along with the name change to our school came many new and expanded opportunities for research, education and experiential learning for our students, faculty and staff.

Initial merger discussions began in 2023 when our two programs and the College of Engineering agreed that there was an opportunity to better serve our students with Purdue University in Indianapolis opening in July 2024. The merger has better positioned us to offer new programs and opportunities at both the West Lafayette and Indianapolis campuses. It also has allowed us to better answer industry demands — both nationally and internationally — that call for graduates who have a greater understanding of both the civil and construction engineering fields.

Another primary goal of this merger is to gain stronger alignment and timing of student offerings (such as internships, co-ops, and study abroad opportunities) to minimize overlap of courses, while providing pathways to timely graduation. This move allows us to better deploy new options and opportunities — such as certificate programs, professional concentrations — at both the graduate and undergraduate levels more effectively and efficiently.

We look forward to supporting our civil and construction engineers of tomorrow as they take advantage of these new opportunities, and I cannot wait to share these stories with you in the future. In the meantime, I am equally excited to share with you a few stories of our ongoing programs and the outstanding Boilermaker engineers of today in this edition of *Transitions*.

These stories include a feature on the remarkable career of alumnus Glen Daigger (BSCE '73, MSCE '75, PhD '79), a closer look at our school's one-of-a-kind S-BRITE Center, profiles on our award-winning alumni of 2024 and a new course we plan to offer at the Purdue in Indianapolis campus.

There are, of course, many other great stories to share, some of which can be found on our website and social media platforms. I am always excited to share these details in person should you attend any of our upcoming events. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you all.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rao S. Govindaraju".

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

TRANSITIONS



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LYLES SCHOOL OF CIVIL AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT TEAM



ERIC PUTMAN

Executive Director of Development
College of Engineering
765-479-1924
eaputman@purdueforlife.org



SCOTT HINKEL

Senior Director of Development
765-427-5283
lshinkel@purdueforlife.org



GENE ANN FAUSETT

Director of Development
765-430-5101
gafausett@purdueforlife.org

LYLES SCHOOL OF CIVIL AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

Rao S. Govindaraju, Head

Ayhan Irfanoglu, Associate Head

Hubo Cai, Associate Head

Brandon Fulk, The Walsh Group Director of Internships

Drew A. Stone, Director of Marketing and Communications

Jaimee Barr, Program Administration Manager

MOVING?

Send change of address to:

Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering
Delon and Elizabeth Hampton Hall of Civil Engineering
550 Stadium Mall Drive

West Lafayette, IN 47907-2051

Email: jimaddox@purdue.edu

Phone: 765-494-2166

Contributing writers: Kat Braz, Drew Stone

Graphic Designers: Paul Sadler, Kat Braz

Contributing photographer: Charles Jischke

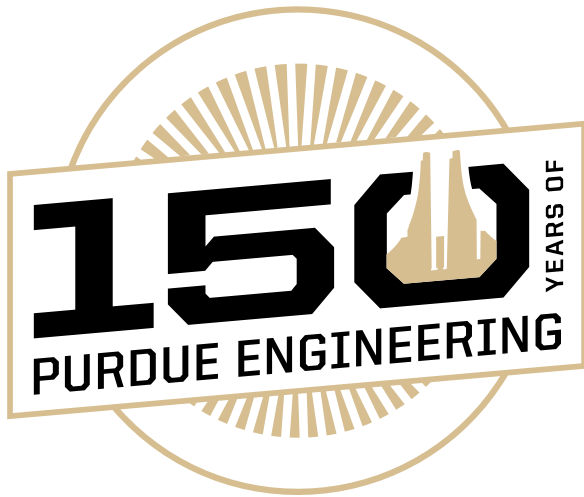
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PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering



An event 150 years in the making, the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering is excited to celebrate Purdue Engineering's sesquicentennial.

➤ **TO LEARN MORE** about Purdue Engineering's sesquicentennial celebration and upcoming events, visit engineering.purdue.edu/150.

Throughout the 2024-25 school year, Purdue University will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Purdue Engineering. Since its creation in 1874, Purdue Engineering has become a world leader in engineering research and education.

"On this historic year, we honor our engineering community's remarkable journey, reflecting on the legacy of giant leaps and excellence that make us who we are," said Arvind Raman, the John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering. "Simultaneously, these events will foster dialogue and innovative thinking, driving us toward novel achievements and societal impact that help us progress as the most consequential engineering college in the nation."

Rao S. Govindaraju, the Bowen Engineering Head of Civil and Construction Engineering and the Christopher B. and Susan S. Burke Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering, said he is eager to celebrate this momentous milestone with the school's alumni, students, faculty, staff and partners.

"It is no exaggeration to say that those connected to our school have played a significant role in the success of both research and academic excellence at Purdue," Govindaraju said. "I look forward to celebrating this event and encourage our alumni especially to take part when they can."

Purdue Engineering traces its origin to September 1874 when university President Abraham C. Shortridge published a four-year curriculum in engineering with three years studying a common curriculum and the fourth year specializing in one of four majors offered at that time. The first engineering student, William Eldridge, was enrolled in an engineering class taught by an engineering instructor, William Morgan. Just 13 years later, the School of Civil Engineering as a separate entity was established.

"The history of the College of Engineering and the School of Civil and Construction Engineering are one," Raman said. "The growth of both programs has been incredible, and the Lyles School's success and world-renowned reputation is a tremendous point of pride for the university as a whole."

The 150th celebration officially kicked off in September. Events planned for the rest of the school year include thought-provoking lectures by distinguished speakers, awards ceremonies celebrating community excellence and student competitions that serve as a space for emerging talent to showcase their skills and innovation.

Other milestone moments will include ribbon cuttings, anniversary celebrations and alumni events that provide a platform for graduates to reconnect, reminisce and forge new connections.



JIM ROWINGS HONORED AT 150TH CELEBRATION

To cap off the first day of celebration on September 14, the College of Engineering held a banquet where it honored some of its most dedicated alumni. Among those recognized was Purdue civil engineering alumnus Jim Rowings (BSCE '75, MSCE '79, PhD '82), vice president of Kiewit Corp.

Rowings has supported his alma mater for decades and is a current member of the Lyles School's civil engineering advisory council. He also spearheaded the Kiewit Scholars program which provides annual scholarship awards of up to \$10,000 for in-state students and up to \$16,000 for out-of-state students seeking leadership opportunities in the construction industry.



A BOOST *TO LAND SURVEYING*

PURDUE IN INDIANAPOLIS TO OFFER COURSES REQUIRED FOR STATE CERTIFICATION

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the job outlook for land surveyors will outpace the average for all other occupations over the next decade. About 3,500 openings nationwide for surveyors are projected each year, on average. To help meet this demand, the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering plans to offer two courses in land surveying at Purdue University in Indianapolis as early as fall 2025, pending approval from the College of Engineering.

Students enrolled in civil and construction engineering with a concentration in geomatics in West Lafayette may take the two additional courses in engineering surveying and boundary law to fulfill the educational requirements necessary to sit for the Indiana land surveyors licensing exam.

“These courses are being developed in collaboration with the Indiana Society

of Professional Land Surveyors (ISPLS) whose members will serve as the course instructors,” said Jinha Jung (PhD ’11), associate professor of civil and construction engineering. “Our industry partners, many of whom are Purdue alumni themselves, have identified a need for more graduating students who are qualified to become licensed land surveyors. Indianapolis is the ideal location to provide these courses because of the proximity to several large and notable construction firms, facilitating student access to industry professionals.”

At one time, Purdue offered a minor in land surveying. Following the retirement of Steven Johnson, professor emeritus of civil engineering, in 2017, the program was phased out, but interest from students remained while workforce demand has increased.

After meeting with the president of

ISPLS, Jung began leading the effort to re-establish the approved land surveying curriculum at Purdue. Currently, the only other program in the state of Indiana is offered by Vincennes University although its focus is primarily on working professionals. At Purdue, the coursework will cover traditional survey methods as well as new technologies such as GPS surveying, aerial surveying with drones and LiDAR.

“As a research institution, Purdue is positioned to offer the best of both worlds to our students,” Jung said. “We can cultivate research interest through our rigorous academic curriculum as well as offer an opportunity for job placement for those interested in entering the industry directly upon graduation. Adding these two courses in land surveying expands our capacity to serve our students.”



CURRICULUM-BASED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

THE WALSH GROUP DIRECTOR OF INTERNSHIPS LEADS PRESTIGIOUS PROGRAM

In 1972, a group of industry representatives contacted the Indiana Commission for Higher Education with a request to develop a new professional level engineering program tailored to the needs of the construction industry. As a result, Purdue University established its construction engineering program in 1976.

Experiential learning has been a foundation of a Purdue degree in construction engineering for nearly 50 years. Faculty and industry experts agreed that internship experiences were critical to preparing workforce-ready construction engineers. Today, completing three paid 12-week internships is a required component of the construction engineering curriculum.

To bolster the visibility of the internship program and reinforce its essential purpose, Chicago-based The Walsh Group, one of the largest and most established builders in North America, created an endowment to establish The Walsh Group Director of Internships position, which was ratified by the Purdue Board of Trustees in 2019. The Walsh Group, a fourth-generation construction company, has a long history of supporting the construction engineering program.

“The Walsh Group was introduced to the Purdue civil and construction engineering program in 1983 with an invitation from Daniel Halpin, then head of the Division of Construction Engineering, to sponsor internships,” said Dan Walsh, co-chair of the Walsh Group. “Over the past 40 years, Walsh has been blessed with dozens of excellent Purdue interns as well as hundreds of Purdue graduate employees. Walsh was honored to endow the position of The Walsh Group Director of Internships, which in our opinion is the finest internship program in the country. We are forever grateful for a succession of outstanding internship directors from Lloyd Jones, Donn Hancher, Bob Tener and especially the current director, Brandon Fulk.”

Fulk (BSCNE '98, MSCE '22) joined the construction and engineering management faculty



“I’ve noticed a tremendous transformation in confidence in students after their first internship.”

BRANDON FULK
The Walsh Group Director
of Internships

in 2010 as director of internships. Now The Walsh Group Director of Internships within the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering, Fulk and his team connect students with experiential learning opportunities available through hundreds of industry partners.

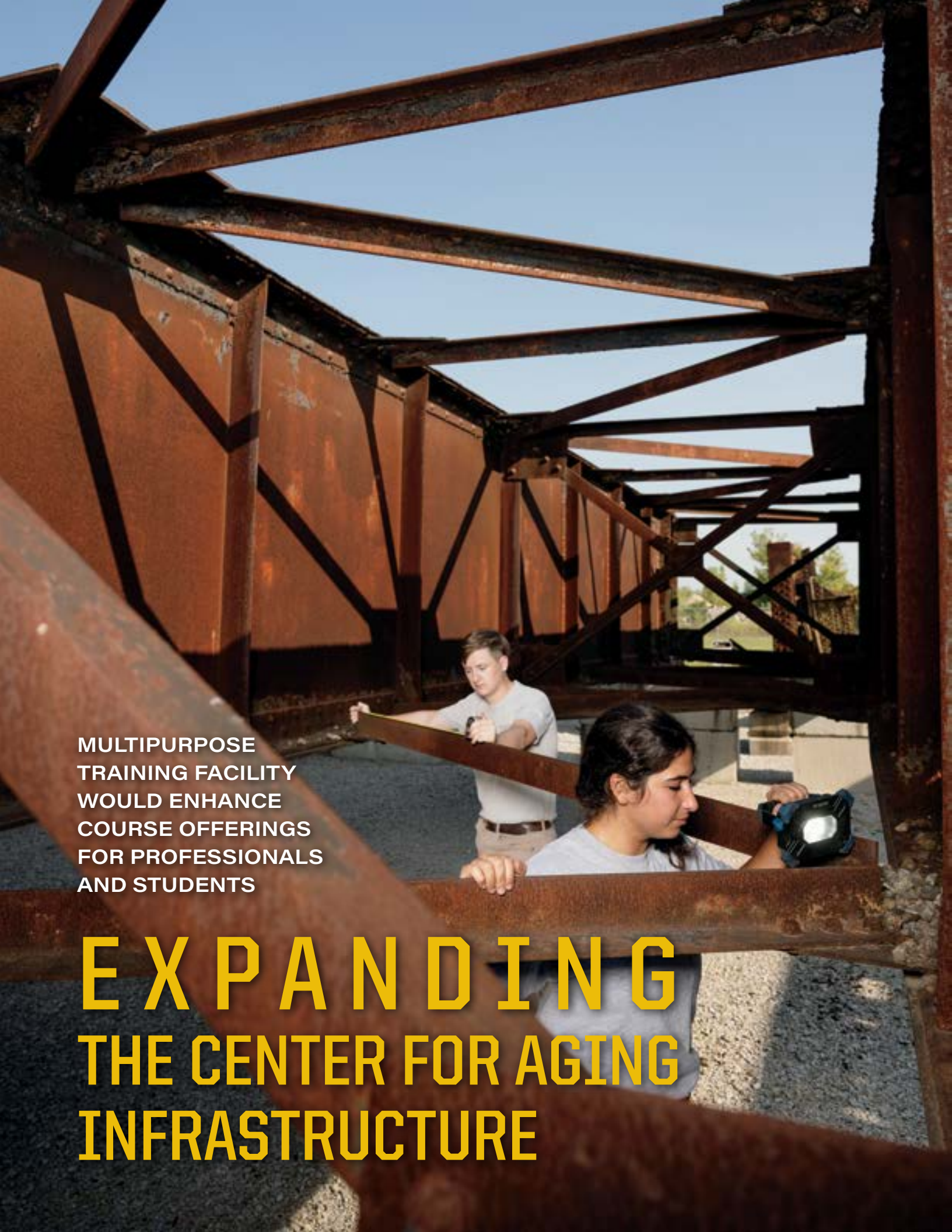
Because of the time Fulk and other members of the construction engineering team dedicate to meeting with and learning about individual students, they’re able to collaborate with representatives from partner companies to create assignments that align with a student’s aptitudes, attitudes and goals as well as the needs and corporate culture of the firm. The students benefit from this level of diligent assessment.

“I’ve noticed a tremendous transformation in confidence in students after their first internship,” Fulk said. “They gain confidence in themselves, in their voice and in their actions. They return to the classroom confident that they can make a difference somewhere after being immersed in a professional company culture with a structure of supervision and mentors.”

The Walsh Group endowment gives Fulk the flexibility to adapt programming based on current needs and objectives, always with the goal of enhancing the student experience.

Historically, students have preferred to complete all three curriculum required internships with the same company. The robust internship program contributes to construction engineering’s 100% job placement rate which has been maintained since the first graduating class in 1979. Fulk credits the support and encouragement of industry partners, many of which have maintained a decades-long relationship with the university, as the primary reason for the program’s sustained success. Other innovative experiential learning opportunities include community-based project builds and one-on-one research with faculty members.

“In the classroom, students can gain the technical competence necessary to do the job and internships help reinforce those technical skills,” Fulk said. “But it’s the curriculum-based experiential learning component that fosters the development of professional skills necessary to succeed in the workplace.”



MULTIPURPOSE
TRAINING FACILITY
WOULD ENHANCE
COURSE OFFERINGS
FOR PROFESSIONALS
AND STUDENTS

EXPANDING THE CENTER FOR AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

When Rob Connor proposed the idea of the Steel Bridge Research, Inspection, Training and Engineering (S-BRITE) Center at Purdue, he envisioned an outdoor laboratory where out-of-service steel bridges and bridge components would be collected in one place. The 20-acre Center for Aging Infrastructure (CAI) opened southwest of the Purdue Airport in 2011, with S-BRITE as its first resident center. Construction of Phase I was completed in December 2014.

Connor, the Jack and Kay Hockema Professor of Civil Engineering and director of CAI and S-BRITE, estimates that more than 3,000 professional engineers and inspectors from around the country have visited the center to participate in training courses over the past decade. In addition, hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students within Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering have used the CAI as part of their courses. The S-BRITE Center's bridge component gallery boasts multiple full-span bridges and a number of sections taken from service along with individual components that feature a host of common and uncommon details used in steel bridge design and construction.

"I once had a team leader from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tell me that by spending two hours at S-BRITE, a person could see more examples of steel bridge construction and damage than they would after 20 years in the field," Connor said. "Nothing else like this exists in the world. It's the only physical collection of steel bridges and bridge components available for hands-on training, research and education."

Now, Connor is planning for the CAI's next giant leap — building a multipurpose training and research facility at the site that would include teaching and laboratory space along with restrooms. An educational space would facilitate classroom learning and provide direct access to the bridge gallery. The Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering is conducting a feasibility study for the project.

"The S-BRITE Center grew out of a need for the Indiana Department of Transportation to provide more advanced and specialized training for its workforce," Connor said. "That led to conversations with the Federal Highway Administration about the unique training opportunities we could offer. In ad-



Rob Connor, the Jack and Kay Hockema Professor of Civil Engineering (at right), with Myriam Sarment, PhD researcher; Tom Welch, graduate student and research engineer; Chandan Kanakamedala (MS CE'21), PhD candidate; Charles Kieffer, PhD student and research associate for S-BRITE; and Aurora Ebert, PhD student; at the S-BRITE Center.

dition to INDOT and the FHWA, we also have partnerships with 16 states and the Army Corps of Engineers."

While the current focus of S-BRITE is on steel bridges, ample space remains to add concrete, timber and other bridge components to the site to enhance the training environment. The construction engineering program and Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program already use the CAI as part of their existing building construction programs. With the support of regional and national partners, Connor sees potential for Purdue to become the first university in the United States to offer an undergraduate and graduate program focused in bridge engineering.

"The U.S. claims to have one of the best infrastructures in the world, but the reality is, the industry can't find enough bridge engineers to design, maintain and inspect bridges," Connor said. "HVAC technicians complete 25-35 credits over three to four semesters of training. However, bridge inspectors, who oversee billions of dollars of life-critical infrastructure, are only required to complete a one- or two-week adult learning class. Individuals interested in a career in bridge engineering

currently have no educational options. Many other countries offer such focused training at the university level. Purdue is poised to establish itself as the West Point for bridge engineering."

According to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association's 2024 Bridge Report, 36% of all bridges — nearly 221,800 spans — require major repair work or replacement. Motorists cross structurally deficient bridges 168.5 million times every day.

"Our industry partners have recognized the importance of specialized steel bridge training offered through S-BRITE," Connor said. "We've established Purdue's credibility as the place to train the professional workforce. In parallel, we could be offering an undergraduate curriculum that would produce properly trained inspectors and engineers capable of designing the next generation of bridges that will serve society for the next 100 years. Expansion of the CAI is necessary to preserve our interstate systems — one of our nation's most valuable assets not only in terms of direct value, but also in terms of ensuring economic and societal stability."

WASTEWATER WISDOM

**Glen Daigger's
journey from
pig farm to
pioneering
environmental
engineering
solutions**





Glen Daigger (BSCE '73, MSCE '75, PhD '79) often jokes that he was always meant to work in the waste management industry.

"I had a lot of personal exposure to waste, growing up on a pig farm just outside Battle Ground, Indiana," said Daigger, professor of engineering practice in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Michigan. The Daigger family farm was located on land that is now part of Prophetstown State Park, just eight miles northwest of Purdue University.

"A farm is a great place to grow up because you learn how to build things, how to fix things, how to be resourceful," he said. "You also learn responsibility at an early age because there are always farm chores to be done. I appreciated my childhood growing up on the pig farm, but I was always aspiring to be part of the broader world."

Although neither of his parents had a formal education, they encouraged Daigger's aptitude for school, particularly math and science, and supported his ambition to attend university. Daigger earned straight As and was valedictorian of the second-to-last graduating class of Battle Ground High School. His academic counselor encouraged him to pursue a degree in engineering.

"Purdue was right up the road with a superior engineering program," Daigger said. "That sounded good to me. My cousin Marc Gill (BSCE '68) was a civil engineer and the things civil engineers did seemed to make sense to me. So that's where I started, and that's where I found a home."

In his first environmental engineering class, Daigger recognized the field offered the right blend of science, problem-solving and technical skills that interested him. Over his 45-year career, he's become an internationally recognized expert in wastewater treatment and water quality management for municipal and industrial systems, with particular expertise in biological processes.

"I enjoy the diversity of sciences that form the foundation of environmental engineering," Daigger said. "We use physical, chemical and biological sciences in our work. Science is extremely reliable knowledge, but it is incomplete. General knowledge and experience with what works and what doesn't work is also essential to environmental engineers. We build on the science with empirical knowledge to find solutions to the problems we need to solve."

The environmental movement was at the forefront of public consciousness during the decade Daigger was studying at Purdue. The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, and the Environmental Protection Agency was established on December 2, 1970. Both were in response to growing concerns about air and water pollution.

"Purdue had an outstanding environmental engineering program at a time when I was educated, and qualified environmental engineers were lacking," Daigger said. "Purdue was well-known for the Purdue Industrial Waste Conference, which was an essential resource for the science and practice of environmental engineering for decades. That's where all the experts were. That's where you learned about new developments. It created quite a community, not only within environmental engineering at Purdue, but the broader environmental engineering community nationally and internationally."

After earning his PhD, Daigger accepted an offer at CH2M Hill, an environmental engineering firm then headquartered in Corvallis, Oregon. Although Daigger only intended to work there for a few years, he ended up staying for 35, rising to the role of senior vice president and chief technology officer while the company grew to become the largest civil and environmental engineering consultancy in the country. It was acquired by Jacobs Engineering Group in 2017.

In 2015, Daigger joined the faculty at the University of Michigan where he advises graduate students while also maintaining his own engineering practice. He and his wife, Patricia, founded One Water Solutions, a water engineering and innovation firm.

"I'm the minority owner," Daigger said. "Patty owns 51% of the company. We got married as I was starting my second year in graduate school, so we've been on this journey together for 50 years."

As a professor, Daigger reflects on his own experiences as he mentors students embarking on their own journeys.

"As environmental engineers, we have the opportunity to make the world a better place," he said. "We used to have burning rivers and dramatically degraded ecosystems. When I look back on everything we've accomplished, I see our ability to meet these challenges and make progress in terms of addressing them, but there will always be new problems to solve."

STUDY ABROAD

Lyles School offers experiential learning opportunities around the globe



From studying infrastructure in South America to transportation in Europe, Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering students are consistently afforded experiential learning opportunities around the world each summer through its faculty-led study abroad programs. These courses allow our students to gain unparalleled insight to real world civil and construction engineering applications – and they are able to take place, in part, thanks to an endowment created by Zah-Lee Moh (MSCE '53, PhD '60).



Students traveled to Salzburg, Austria where they toured its salt mine.



Students in the European Transportation course went on a public transportation tour through Munich, Germany.



The Engineering in the Southern Cone: Buenos Aires and Patagonia study abroad program studied the engineering practices in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the Patagonia region of South America.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Congratulations to our outstanding Lyles School of Civil and Construction 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.

2024 CEAAA RECIPIENTS

Civil Engineering at Purdue has a long history of educating outstanding engineers — and the Civil Engineering Alumni Achievement Award gives the school the opportunity to recognize the career accomplishments of some of our most influential graduates.

This year's awardees are (from left): R. Keith Churchill (BSCE '06), JoAnn Browning (PhD '98), Robert Threlkeld (BSCE '98, MSCE '00), Derek Crider (BSCE '78, MSCE '80), Douglas M. Owen (BSCE '80) and J. Carlos Santamarina (PhD '87).



2024 DEA RECIPIENTS



Carlos Hernandez (BSCE '76)

Board Member, Pacific Gas & Electric and Steward Health Care Systems

At the age of 8, Cuban-born Carlos Hernandez arrived in Florida as a political exile with his parents. He easily could've dwelled on the deck being stacked against him, but instead embraced the move as an opportunity. At

Purdue, he flourished — and three years after receiving his degree, he earned a law degree from the University of Miami. His education set the stage for a 40-year career that spanned engineering, procurement, manufacturing and distribution with expertise in litigation, mergers and acquisitions, risk management, safety and environmental matters, real estate, non-merchandise procurement, corporate security, corporate governance and compliance.



Vasiliki Keramida (MSCE '76, PhD '79)

CEO, CTO and Founder, KERAMIDA Inc.

Less than a decade after earning her doctorate, Vasiliki Keramida established KERAMIDA Inc., an Indianapolis-based global engineering and consulting firm that offers worldwide strategy and implementation services in sustainability, greenhouse gases, energy, environment and health and safety compliance. KERAMIDA's clients include many Fortune 500 companies, municipalities, state agencies, banking institutions and law practices. A nationally recognized authority on the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites, Keramida frequently is called upon to testify as an expert witness. She also holds two U.S. patents: one on the treatment of hazardous wastes and another on the destruction of hazardous vapors.

2024 CEM ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

The CEM Outstanding Alumni Award was established to recognize the professional contributions and outstanding achievements of graduates from the Division of Construction Engineering and Management and to thank them for the recognition that their success brings to Purdue and the division.

This year's awardees are Jeff Hagerman (CNE '93) and Augie Ziccarelli (CNE '81). Logan Cook (CNE '10, MSCE '12) was recognized as the emerging leader.



Jeff Hagerman



Augie Ziccarelli



Logan Cook

GREETINGS FROM SCOTT HINKEL

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LYLES SCHOOL

As I begin my 11th year with the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering, I consider myself lucky and honored to be involved with such a prestigious program. Our Lyles School alumni embody the mantra “stay connected, get involved, give back” in a manner that is second to none, and for this, thank you so much! Recent national rankings once again highlight the strength of our school by having the undergraduate, graduate and online programs all ranked in the nation’s elite Top 5. And although these rankings are some of the best in the country, we continue to strive for the coveted No. 1 spot with your continued backing. These rankings speak volumes to the support we receive from each one of you — thank you!

You may have noticed the name change to the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering which became official July 1, 2024. The merger of civil engineering and construction engineering management will allow our rebranded school to provide a platform for our graduates to meet continued industry demands. Our alumni and graduates remain consequential in helping maintain and solve the world’s ever growing challenges. One doesn’t have to look back too far to recall the horrific bridge collapse in Baltimore that once again brings the profession of civil and construction engineering to the forefront of everyday life.

And please don’t forget that our College of Engineering is now in the start of a year-long 150th anniversary celebration. Be on the lookout for locations across the country where you can be a part of this terrific celebration that will include many of our very own Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering alumni.

With more than 760 undergraduates at the start of the fall semester, scholarship support continues to play a major role in making the dream of becoming a Purdue civil or construction engineer a reality. Tuition was once again frozen for the 13th consecutive year — thanks in part to the generosity of so many of you who have chosen to endow a scholarship for our students.

Thank you as well for your support of faculty, research, facilities and recruiting initiatives. To stay competitive and lead the way across the globe, it is imperative that we retain and attract the best faculty, showcase some of the best laboratories in the nation, lead in ground-breaking research initiatives and recruit students into the world of civil and construction engineering. The recent success of CE 299 — a high school course for future civil engineering students held on campus in the summer — is just one example of recruitment initiatives that many of you have supported.

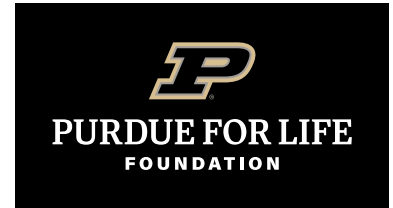
With an ever-growing digital footprint, where connections are boundless, I challenge you to continue to spread the word and share your Purdue story with your connections on our social media platforms. We are incredibly grateful for the continued support and are always open to hearing how we can do more to help you make a life-changing impact on members of our Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering family.

Boiler Up and Hammer Down,



Scott Hinkel

Senior Director of Development



“**Tuition was once again frozen for the 13th consecutive year — thanks in part to the generosity of so many of you who have chosen to endow a scholarship for our students.**”



Lyles School of Civil and
Construction Engineering

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AT SCALE.

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Lyles School of Civil and
Construction Engineering