

ASCE St. Louis Section Annual Dinner 2015

ASCE ST. LOUIS SECTION SCHOLARSHIPS

Letters of recommendation for all four college scholarship recipients confirm the caliber of this year's college scholarship recipients. In addition to notes of high academic achievement, common words used by their nominees to describe them include being contagiously passionate about civil engineering, hardworking, professional, competent, ethical, enthusiastic, conscientious, organized, focused, dedicated, and respectful. It is very apparent that all four have a strong sense of purpose and good communication skills, which contribute to making them strong leaders with great character. Common themes of service, high levels of involvement, and working for the common good are clearly present in all four winners. To loosely quote one of the nomination letters, these students are true advocates for civil engineering and rising professionals. The Section Scholarship Awards were presented by Past President Marc Bacchetti.

EMILY PETERSON
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERISTY CARBONDALE



MELISSA MARKS
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



VIRGINIA TRAUTH
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA



Not able to attend:

**KELLY KECKEMEYER, MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**CORY KOLTVEIT, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE**

2015 MIKE ALIZADEH / GEOTECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Mike Alizadeh scholarship is awarded due to a generous endowment by the Alizadeh family, in recognition of pursuing a Master's Degree in Civil or Geological Engineering with a geotechnical or environmental emphasis at a Midwestern university.

First Place: CASSIE DUMOULIN, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Second Place: BEN DAVIS, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

2015 STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIPS

This scholarship is provided by the St. Louis Section's Structural Engineering Institute in recognition of pursuing a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering with a structural emphasis at a Midwestern university. Presented by Chad Schrand.

SAMANTHA WERMAGER

MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Jordan Pettibone - Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement

The Young Engineer Award recognizes professional contributions of younger members to the Society and to the St. Louis Section and is presented annually to a Member of the St. Louis Section of ASCE who is judged to have attained significant professional achievement, and who is less than 35 years of age. This year's Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement goes to Kyle Tabor.

Jordan earned a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering from the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2007. While in Edwardsville, Jordan started his activity with ASCE as the student chapter treasurer for two years and participation in the concrete canoe and steel bridge teams. Jordan is a registered Professional Engineer in Illinois and Missouri.



Jordan Pettibone receives the Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement from Shawna Erter

Since 2009, Jordan has worked at Horner & Shifrin and has been a very active member of ASCE's Younger Members Group. He has attended the Younger Member Council in 2010, 2011 and 2012, and returned as a speaker in 2014. As the Younger Members Chair from 2011-2013, Jordan helped the St. Louis Section receive the Outstanding Section of the Year Award both years. Under his leadership, the group executed 5 public outreach activities, and Jordan spearheaded and planned 2011 Career Path Forum for Younger members and students. Jordan continues to be an active member of the YMG with work on the YMG Trivia Night planning committee and he helped bring Multi-Regional Leadership Conference (MRLC) to St. Louis and worked on the planning committee.

Professionally, Jordan has worked on a wide variety of transportation projects, including work on the design team for Engineering plans for improvements at Interstate 270 & IL Route 3 for IDOT which earned the 2012 ACEC-IL Special Achievement Award. The project, which was on a very short time

schedule, included changing a Diamond interchange to a semi-clover interchange. Jordan was also the Project Engineer for the IL 3 in Waterloo project to convert a 2 lane highway to 5 lanes. The project followed IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process, included Monroe County's first roundabout and involved enhanced public participation

In his community, Jordan is on the Village of New Baden, IL Parks and Recreation Board where he spearheaded development and implementation of the park and civic master plan.

Marsia Geldert-Murphey - Professional Recognition Award

The Professional Recognition Award recognizes the importance of professional attainment in the advancement of the science and profession of engineering and is presented to a Member of the St. Louis Section of ASCE who has made substantial contributions to the engineering profession and the St. Louis Section. This year's Professional Recognition Award goes to Marsia Geldert-Murphey.



Marsia Geldert-Murphey receives the Professional Recognition Award from Shawwna Erter

Marsia has over 20 years of experience directing and supervising geotechnical projects, primarily associated with utilities, transportation and site development. She has directed the preparation and execution of many public involvement plans. She is recognized for her negotiation and crisis management skills and, therefore, has served as quality assurance officer or in an executive advisory capacity for numerous projects.

Her career spans from working at the Illinois Department of Transportation for 8 years to being Vice President of SCI Engineering from 2000-2006. In 2006, she built an entrepreneurial venture, Kaskaskia Engineering Group, from start-up to \$8M in revenue in five years. Due to her compassionate leadership style and technical abilities, she led many large-scale civil engineering projects in the region. In 2012, she sold her first start up to her business partner. In 2013 she formed Sequoia Engineering & Environmental, Inc. Marsia is also an experienced speaker addressing a wide variety of audiences on leadership, entrepreneurial pursuits and civil engineering as a career.

Marsia was chosen as one of the St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Business Women of 2010 for her commitment to the St. Louis Region, and her strong presence in the engineering community. Also in 2010, Marsia received the Smart Women, Smart Money Women on the Rise Award from the Illinois Treasurer's office, an award that is given annually to women whose success as business owners makes them a role model for other women in their community.

In addition to her professional leadership, Marsia has been very active in ASCE since college. In the St. Louis Section, Marsia served all the offices culminating in President in 2005-2006. Marsia has continued her contributions to ASCE both nationally and regionally, serving on National's Committee on Diversity and Women in Civil Engineering, and Public Policy Committee. She has most recently served as the Region 7 Governer-At-Large.

Marsia is also active in the community, having volunteered for the Women's Safe House, Blessing Basket Project, and United Way. She manages all of this while being a wife and mother of two, and one of her craziest accomplishments is competing with a team in the Tough Mudder competition!

Michael J. Griffin – Otto Nuttli Award

The Otto Nuttli Award is presented to Michael J. Griffin.



Michael Griffin receives the Otto Nuttli Award from Chad Schrand and Shawwna Erter

St. Louis Section Project of the Year – I-270 Canal Crossing: Renewing Bi-State Mobility

Civil Engineering achievement within the St. Louis Section is recognized annually by ASCE with the selection of a “St. Louis Section Project of the Year Award”. The Award is given for achievement—not to an individual—so that the many individuals who have worked on the project are recognized as having contributed. Basis for the Award is “an engineering project that demonstrates the greatest engineering skills, and represents the greatest contribution to civil engineering progress and mankind”. This year’s Project of the Year Award goes to the I-270 Canal Crossing: Renewing Bi-State Mobility project for the reconstruction of the twin I-270 bridges over the Chain of Rocks Canal near Granite City, IL. The project owner is the Illinois Department of Transportation. The lead engineering design firm is HDR Engineering. The general contractor is Walsh Construction Company.



**Project of the Year Award presented by Shawwna Erter
Owner: Illinois Department of Transportation
Engineer: HDR Engineering
Contractor: Walsh Construction**

The twin truss bridges that carried I-270 over the Chain of Rocks Canal were built in 1963 by the same firm that designed the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis that failed in 2007. The bridges serve as a major interstate and St. Louis Area commuter link between Illinois and Missouri, with an average annual daily traffic count of 54,700 vehicles and 20% truck traffic. The bridges cross the canal that acts as a Mississippi River Bypass for all barge traffic traveling through St. Louis. Due to the many impacts to the traveling public, IDOT and HDR worked collaboratively to study and design the replacement bridge in a condensed 24-month schedule. The bridges were completed and opened to traffic in 2014, which has brought new functionality and aesthetic enhancements to a primary gateway between the two states. The new bridge represents the largest steel plate I-girder bridge in Illinois.

Due to the I-35W collapse, HDR also inspected the old bridges annually to ensure that the structural integrity was sufficient during design and construction of the new bridges, identifying rehabilitation requirements to keep the structures serviceable in the near term. Since construction funding was not secured at the time, HDR developed a solution to construct the bridge in phases as funding became available.

The Chain of Rocks Canal is bounded by two US Army Corps of Engineers levees. One of the critical pier locations was within the east levee. This required a compromise with USACE to relocate a portion of the levee, which provided a secondary resiliency benefit to the public for flood protection and bridge safety.

Despite these challenges and others posed by the existing levee impacts, the design and construction went well with no significant incidents.

ASCE Region 7 Director Jay Burress Recognizes the St. Louis Section Regional and National Award Winners



**Congratulations to Melantha Norton!
Region 7 Outstanding ASCE Younger Member Award
AND ASCE Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award
for Professional Achievement**



**Congratulations to Robert Holmes!
ASCE Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award**

Installation of ASCE St. Louis Section 2015-2016 Officers



Officers sworn in for 2015-2016 by Region 7 Director Jay Burress, include (left to right) Michael Buechter (President), Matt Harper (President-Elect), Chad Schrand (Secretary), Brent Vaughn (Treasurer), Shawna Erter (Past President), Alison Graves (Director of Prof. Development), John Weiland (Director of Administration), and Jordan Pettibone (Director of Technical Development).



Passing of the gavel from Shawna Erter to Michael Buechter



President Buechter closes the dinner