

ASCE St. Louis Section Annual Dinner 2016

ASCE ST. LOUIS SECTION SCHOLARSHIPS

The ASCE St. Louis Section Annual Scholarships are awarded in recognition of membership in an ASCE Student Chapter, enrollment as a civil engineering student, excellence in academic performance, and active participation in issues reflecting the role of engineers in the advancement of our society. Each of the Section's colleges is solicited for nominations. The scholarship awards were presented by Past President Shawna Erter.

Alice Waldon
Southern Illinois University - Carbondale



Sam Runge
University of Missouri - Columbia



Michelle Bresnahan
St. Louis University



Amanda Fisher
Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville



Jonathan Kuchem
Missouri University of Science and Technology



2016 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.

1st Place – Jesse Moyles
University of Missouri - Columbia



2nd Place – Matthew Watters
University of Arkansas



PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Gene L. Rovak, P.E., F.ASCE - 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 Gene Rovak.

Gene earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering from Washington University in 1967 and a professional development degree in civil engineering from the Missouri University of Science & Technology at Rolla in 1976. After graduating from Washington University's R.O.T.C. program and prior to beginning his career in consulting, Gene served on active duty in the U.S. Army, developing site and infrastructure systems for his unit in Phu Bai, Vietnam. Only 60 miles from the border with North Vietnam, Gene designed and built a heat-exchanger that provided the base with hot and cold running water and also developed an electrical supply system to provide reliable service to the soldiers stationed there.

Gene is a Senior Project Advisor with Horner & Shifrin, Inc., where he has over 40 years of experience in water resources, including flood and watershed analysis and design for a wide range of water-related facilities. He has particular expertise in interior drainage for urban levee systems, having developed simulation models for the two-way multiple-reservoir hydraulic analysis of complex systems before commercial or public software with similar capabilities was available. His design projects have included major river water intakes, urban levee systems, and the map revisions necessary to reflect the effect of



Gene Rovak receives the Professional Recognition Award from Michael Buechter

new flood management systems, and he has performed watershed analyses for urban storm-water management and for alternate multiple-reservoir sites for river basins.

At Horner & Shifrin, Gene is often entrusted with new hires for training in hydrology and hydraulics, where he doesn't just explain "how" to do things, he also explains "why". Especially with the proliferation of hydrologic and hydraulic software, rather than training young engineers to "plug and chug" data into these programs, Gene teaches them the physical, real-world practical applications behind the model. According to one of Gene's many mentees at Horner & Shifrin, the saying there is, "If you can't work for Gene Rovak, you can't work for anybody." Gene's teaching ability has been recognized and will reach a broader audience as an instructor with Forester University's online courses, including being on a team of experts teaching the Post-Construction Stormwater BMP Master Class Series.

Within ASCE, Gene has served on the St. Louis Section's Board of Directors all the way through President. He is a founding member and served as chair of the St. Louis chapter of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute, where he continues to be a very active member. And he is currently a governor of Region 7. Gene also served as the St. Louis Section Newsletter Editor where he converted the distribution from paper copies to email and as the St. Louis Section Webmaster where he developed the Section's first website.

Gene has also served his community in numerous civic capacities, including:

- Executive Board, Creve Coeur – Olivette MO Chamber of Commerce
- Technical Committee Chair, Deer Creek Watershed Alliance
- City of Creve Coeur, MO Planning Commissioner
- City of Creve Coeur, Chair Stormwater Committee
- Subdivision Board of Trustees President (255 homes)
- Earth Day Symposium Steering Committee

Alison N. Graves, P.E. - 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 Alison Graves.

Alison earned a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri - Columbia in 2006. Since then, she has worked at Jacobs Engineering where she has over 9 years of technical experience in roadway and site design, including several significant design-build projects such as the design of 12 grade separated roadways over a high speed rail from Fresno, CA to Bakersfield, CA; Maintenance of traffic planning for a segment of I-65 in Louisville, KY; and analysis and design work for the Page Extension. Alison also worked on the Lake Pontchartrain Vicinity Floodwall Replacement after Hurricane Katrina. Alison is a registered professional engineer in the state of Missouri.



Alison Graves receives the Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement from Michael Buechter

Since 2011, Alison has been a very active member of the St. Louis Section of ASCE's Younger Members Group helping out with everything from Bowling Night Organizer and participating in Science Center Career Day to volunteering with Rebuilding Together and Web Coordinator. This year, she spear-headed the first Meet A Professional Luncheon, matching 24 student chapter members with professionals in their field of civil engineering. The event was a resounding success with calls to make it an annual event. Alison has also contributed her time to the Central Region Younger Member Council where she was the planning co-chair in 2014, including raising over \$14,000. Moreover, this past year, Alison took on the challenge of joining the St. Louis Section's Board of Directors as the Director of Professional Development.

But she doesn't only share her valuable time with ASCE. Alison is also a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies where she is a graduate of the Future Leaders Academy and is a corresponding member of the Transportation Committee and Governmental Affairs Committee. She has spent two sessions as Vice President of Membership with Toastmaster International at Jacobs where she is a Charter Member since 2011 and has won multiple awards and competitions. Also at Jacobs, she started a chapter of Jacobs Next which is a local network of 30 employees with 6 to 10 years of experience including monthly luncheons with speakers and she organized a mentor program this past year between young and mid-level engineers in St. Louis.

Alison's other volunteer activities primarily focus on STEM outreach and supporting St. Patrick Center in downtown St. Louis. These include presenting and mentoring with Mathews-Dickey Boys' and Girls' Club; Participating in the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day; Leading the Jacobs Next team to design, fundraise, and build a structure made of canned goods which were then donated to St. Patrick Center; and volunteering at St. Patrick Center's Service Event.

Service to People Award

To bring public recognition to individuals who have performed outstanding service to people in their communities and to further public understanding and recognition of the identification "Civil Engineering - A People-Serving Profession", the St. Louis Section grants the Service to People Award to an individual who is judged to have performed significant service to the community in connection with planning, design or construction of the people serving works of the civil engineering profession. This year's Service to People Award goes to Russ Batzel.



Russ Batzel receives the Service to People Award from Michael Buechter

For the past 20 years, Russ has held several positions as an employee of the City of St. Peters that has impacted the lives of every citizen of the City in a positive way. He has dedicated his career to public service, beginning as Director of Public Works Operations and being promoted ultimately to heading the Public Works Service department, where his role was expanded to include Fleet Maintenance, Streets, Utilities, and Storm Water. He later transitioned to Manager of Transportation and Development Services where his responsibilities included the Building and Planning and Zoning Departments and Economic Development. Recently this year he has been appointed to be the City's next City Administrator.

Russ's accomplishments in "serving people" are many and are quite diverse. Including:

1. Implementing his vision for the City's Composting Facility. This recycling program not only turns the Biosolids created at the City's wastewater plant into a sought after landscaping material, it allows for 12 month a year disposal of yard waste that is composted. The City sells the compost to offset solids handling costs. St. Peters has the largest system of composted biosolids recycling in Missouri, and it is one of only two biosolids composting facilities in the state.
2. Russ has also brought innovation and technology to St. Peters roadways making the system one of the most intelligent in the St. Louis region. St. Peters had a traffic command center years before MODOT established the Gateway Guide System. He was also one of the first implementers of a "diverging diamond" interchange in St. Charles County at Mid Rivers Mall Drive and 1-70, making one of the most heavily traveled and dangerous intersections in St. Charles County safer.
3. Russ also envisioned region wide storm water planning to address the needs of the watersheds of the St. Charles County region by developing the scope and finding funding for a USACE study of flooding issues on the Dardenne Creek. He later developed a stormwater master plan for St. Peters based on the findings of that study. His vision became reality when the \$40M bond issue to improve the water quality and stormwater management throughout of St. Peters was approved by the voters, and the Capital Program initiated.
4. Russ was integral in the creation of the Lakeside 370 Park and Recreation Facilities/Premier 370 Business Park including the 140 acre lake, and camping area that now hosts the City's massive "Celebrate St Peters" festival each year.
5. Russ has also supported expansion of the Great River Greenway network of trails throughout St. Peters over the past 10 plus years.

Russ has a BS Civil Engineering Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana and MS Engineering Management from the Missouri University of Science & Technology at Rolla. Russ is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri. Russ was presented a certificate signed by the President of ASCE in gratitude for his service.

St. Louis Section Project of the Year – Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Facility Secondary Treatment Expansion and Disinfection Facilities

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 Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Facility Secondary Treatment Expansion and Disinfection Facilities project to increase capacity from 28 to 38 million gallons per day (mgd) average and a maximum of 80 mgd wet-weather flow to serve potential commercial, light industrial and residential development planned near the facility. The project owner is the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, the engineering design firm is Black & Veatch Corporation, and the general contractor is Goodwin Brothers Construction Company.



**Project of the Year Award presented by Michael Buechter
Owner: Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
Engineer: Black & Veatch Corporation
Contractor: Goodwin Brothers Construction Company**

The Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Facility expansion involved a complex, \$94 million project involving new aeration basins, final clarifiers, an ultraviolet light disinfection facility and blower building. These new facilities replaced existing trickling filters with newer technology and increased the secondary treatment capacity. The solids treatment planning resulted in a new solids handling building that consolidated different facilities throughout the plant into one centralized more efficient building that housed new rotary drum thickeners, centrifuges, sludge pumps, sludge storage silos and a truck-loading station. The associated improvements to the solids processing included existing digester modifications as well as a new anaerobic digester.

ASCE Region 7 Director Jay Burress Recognizes the St. Louis Section's Own Marsia Geldert-Murphy – 2016 Edmund Friedman Professional Award Winner



**Congratulations to Marsia!
2016 Edmund Friedman Professional Award Winner**

Installation of ASCE St. Louis Section 2016-2017 Officers



Officers sworn in for the 2016-2017 St. Louis Section Board by Region 7 Director Jay Burress. Pictured left to right are: Michael Buechter (Past President), Matt Harper (President), Lyle Simonton (President Elect), Chad Schrand (Vice President), John Weiland (Director of Administration), Jordan Pettibone (Treasurer), Alison Graves (Director of Prof. Development), Christopher Toenjes (Director of Tech. Development), Brent Vaughn (Secretary)



Passing of the gavel from Michael Buechter to Matt Harper