



**GEO-  
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**Delaware Valley  
Chapter**

# DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE

DVGI March 2025

Volume 25 Issue 3

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## **March 2025 STUDENT NIGHT/DVGI - Dinner Meeting**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Ernest (Ernie) Hanna, Senior Consultant with GZA GeoEnvironmental

**STUDENT SPEAKERS:** Reza Jebel, University of Delaware; Avinash Pandey, E.I.T, Rowan University; Catherine Sengstock Widener University

**TOPIC:** Student Night 2025

**DATE:** Tuesday March 25, 2025 – Social Hour 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM EST; Dinner 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM; Presentations 7:30PM to 8:30PM

**WHERE:** Villanova University, Connelly Center, 800 E Lancaster Ave., Villanova, PA

**COST:** \$60 Standard, \$30 Government/Retired, \$10 Students

### **MEETING ABSTRACT:**

DVGI invites you to March 2025 Student Night! This meeting will be held at the Villanova University Connelly Center. The meeting will feature an introductory speech by 2024 Philadelphia Section Geotechnical Engineer of the Year - Ernie Hanna, Senior Consultant with GZA GeoEnvironmental. Three student presentations will follow Ernie's speech.

### **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Ernie Hanna is a Senior Consultant with GZA GeoEnvironmental, where he has worked for 39-years. After graduating from the University of Rochester with a B.S. in Biology / Geology in the late 1970s, Ernie worked for 4-years as a Field Geologist with Haley & Aldrich in New York and New England then went on to received a M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering, with a concentration in Geotechnical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Upon graduation, Ernie began working with GZA in its Buffalo, NY office where he advanced from Project Engineer to the Principal level, and District Office Manager for New York Operations. During his time in New York, Ernie was active in several professional organizations, including serving on the Board and as President of ASCE – Philadelphia Section, ACEC/NY Western Region, SAME-Buffalo Post, and the Engineering Society of Buffalo.

### **ABOUT THE STUDENT SPEAKERS:**

Reza Jebeli, a PhD candidate at the University of Delaware, is researching the impact of environmental changes on soils' stability and shear strength. Avinash Pandey, E.I.T., an MS student at Rowan University, is investigating the use of remote sensing technologies to address geotechnical challenges in cold climates. Catherine Sengstock, an MS student at Widener University, is exploring the use of industrial byproducts to improve the sustainability of construction materials.



**Please register by March 20th**





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## February 2025 Joint DVGI/SEI Dinner Meeting

**Speaker : Sitotaw Y. Fantaye ,P.E, Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, PLLC, (MRCE)**

**Topic: Design and Construction of a Challenging Cofferdam for a Large Pump Station and Outfall Structure in Charleston, SC**

### MEETING ABSTRACT:

The Spring Fishburne Basins is a five-phase project to improve drainage, reduce the frequency of severity and duration of flooding for the Spring and Fishburne basins and move water from the surface through a network of surface collection pipes, vertical drop shaft and deep tunnels to a pump station where it will ultimately end up in the Ashley River. The Ashley River is a Blackwater / tidal river in South Carolina, rising from the Wassamassaw and Great Cypress Swamps in western Berkeley County. To construct the subterranean approximately 50ft deep pump station which is wedged between the north and south bound lanes of the I-17 with its outfall letting Stormwater into the Ashley River, a cofferdam was necessary. This presentation will focus on the structural, geotechnical and constructability challenges of the cofferdam design for the construction of the pump station located in difficult geologic conditions.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

Sitotaw Y. Fantaye is a licensed Professional Engineer in a dozen states and a Principal at Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, PLLC (MRCE), a firm he joined in 2005 as a Senior Engineer. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the City University of New York. He is a structural engineer specializing in the analysis and design of deep and shallow foundations for buildings and bridges, underpinning, platforms, waterfront structures, piers, wharfs, floodwalls, and complex support of excavation systems. His expertise includes internally and externally braced slurry (diaphragm) walls, secant pile walls, soldier pile tremie concrete walls, soil mix walls, deep shafts for tunnel boring machines, temporary shoring towers, cofferdams, and trestles. As a Principal in Charge, he is responsible for schematic designs, directing teams of geotechnical and structural foundation engineers, and participating in the analysis, design, and development of project drawings.

He has authored and co-authored a dozen papers that have been published or presented in major conference proceedings and prominent industry magazines within the geotechnical and foundation engineering community, such as ASCE journals and Met Section conferences, and DFI Deep Foundations Magazine.





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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# SPRING EVENTS



**25  
MARCH**

### DVGI STUDENT NIGHT 2025

DVGI Student Night will again be hosted at Villanova University's Connolly Center. For event-specific details and to register, scan the QR code to the right.



**26  
MARCH**

### LUNCHTIME WEBINAR WITH ASCE/T&DI/CME

DVGI will be co-hosting a virtual meeting featuring a presentation by John Peirce of Peirce Engineering and Dante Nocito of Agate Construction on the Indian River Inlet North Bulkhead Repairs.

**10  
APRIL**

### ASCE MULTI-TECHNICAL DINNER MEETING

Join us for the 2025 ASCE Philadelphia Multi-Technical Topics Dinner Meeting at The Inn at Swarthmore. The evening will include technical breakout sessions by SEI, T&DI/CME, and DVGI. The DVGI's breakout session will feature the Gardner Lecture.

**20  
MAY**

### DVGI MAY DINNER MEETING

The DVGI will return to Valley Forge Casino's Parkview Ballroom for a presentation by the Geo-Institute's 2024-25 Cross-Lecturer, Richard Bathurst, PhD, PEng of the Royal Military College of Canada.

**19  
JUNE**

### ANNUAL DVGI GOLF OUTING

Come join us at Kimberton Golf Club in Phoenixville, PA for some fresh air, networking, and a good time at our annual golf outing! Proceeds from the outing will benefit the DVGI scholarship fund.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE GEOTECHNICAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We want to hear about the work **YOU** do! DVGI recognizes a distinguished geotechnical project recently completed in the region based on submissions by its active members. Submissions for the 6th annual DVGI Project of the Year Competition will be featured in the DVGI Newsletter in the order received and will be accepted through May 1, 2025. The winner will be announced at our May Dinner Meeting on May 20, 2025.



**SUBMISSIONS DUE MAY 1, 2025**





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Delaware Valley Geo-Institute  
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## THURSDAY JUNE 19, 2025



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AGENDA

8:00 - 8:30 AM Golfer Check-In

9:00 AM Shotgun Start

11:30 - 3:30 PM Lunch and Awards

COST

Golf Registration **\$125 (Includes cart, food, and drink)**

ASCE/DVGI Members, Friends, and Clients of All Skill Levels Welcome

Registration Details Coming Soon!

Online at [dvgi.org](http://dvgi.org)

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**G-I GEO-INSTITUTE ASCE Delaware Valley Chapter**

**I WANT YOU**  
**TO JOIN THE DVGI**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SUBMIT YOUR RESUME AND A BIO OF 400 WORDS OR LESS BY MAY 1, 2025**

Please submit your resume and BIO (400 words less) to Theresa Loux at  
[tloux@aeroaggregates.com](mailto:tloux@aeroaggregates.com)





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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Upcoming Dates for 2024-25 Dinner Meetings and events are as follows:

3/25/2025 – Tuesday – Student Night at Villanova

3/26/2025 Wednesday— ASHE, CME, T&DI, and Geo– Institute Joint  
Lunchtime Webinar—“Save the Indian River Inlet Bulkhead Repairs”

4/10/2025 – Thursday – Joint ASCE - Joint Multi-Technical Society Meeting  
Gardner Lecture, Richard Bird, Dewatering

5/20/2025 – Tuesday – Richard Bathurst—TBA

*One PDH will be awarded for most meetings that you attend.*

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## NEW DVGI.ORG WEBSITE

Check out our revamped website at DVGI.ORG!



**Welcome to Delaware Valley Geo-Institute!**

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  - [Awards](#)
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Geosynthetic Institute

### GSI RECORDED WEBINARS

- Topics, and Registration at [www.geosynthetic-institute.org/webinar.htm](http://www.geosynthetic-institute.org/webinar.htm)
  - Each Webinar Carries 1.5 Professional Development Hours  
Upon Completion of a 10-Question Multiple Choice Test
  - Each presentation lasts approximately 90 minutes

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YOUR CONVENIENCE

GSI/GMA Members \$200.00 USD per each Webinar  
Non GSI/GMA Members \$250.00 USD per each Webinar

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **HAVE DVGI PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLE, ADVERTISEMENT, OR JOB POSTING**

- Do you have an interesting article on a project or individual in your organization that you would like to have published in the DVGI newsletter?
- Would you like to get the word out about a job opening, new venture, etc. to our membership via the newsletter?

Please submit your articles or news items for consideration in the next edition of the newsletter or get in touch about our reasonably priced advertising by contacting Neil Scafonas (neil.scafonas@aecom.com).

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### **Geo-Institute**

On Director's Cut, Geo-Institute Director Brad Keelor interviews G-I members about anything and everything. You might hear about their favorite geotechnical project, their favorite music, or their favorite pie. In Episode 9 of Season 6, our guest is Aaron Budge of Minnesota State University, Technical Co-Chair of Geotechnical Frontiers 2025 :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AWTd2UoIX4>

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### **ASCE/G-I Members:**

Read past and present issues of Geo-Strata magazine online at [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)

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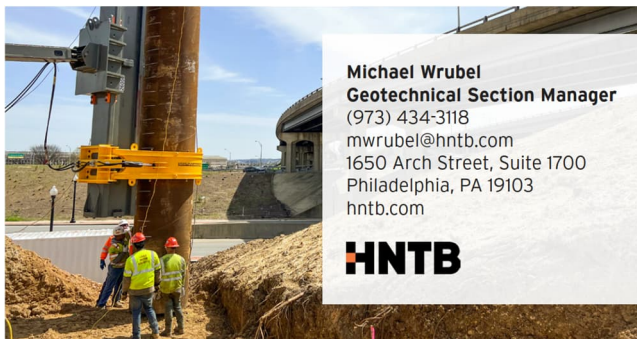
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