



**GEO-
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**Delaware Valley
Chapter**

DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE

DVGI April 2025

Volume 25 Issue 4

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April 2025 ASCE-DVGI - Multi-Technical Meeting

SPEAKER: Richard Bird, P.E., Principal Geotechnical Engineer at
AECOM, St. Louis, MO

TOPIC: **Gardner Lecture:** "Construction Dewatering – Controlling
Groundwater for Excavations and Maintenance"

DATE: Thursday April 10, 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: The Inn at Swarthmore, 10 S Chester Rd, Swarthmore, PA
19081

Cost: \$75.00 General, \$50.00 Government/Student Rate

GARDNER LECTURE MEETING ABSTRACT:

This presentation includes purposes for dewatering, scope of subsurface investigations required for system design/bidding, selection of suitable dewatering methods for various subsurface conditions, assignment of risk for system design, installation, workmanship, performance, operation, and maintenance in technical specifications, standby pumps, standby power, automatic switching, emergency flooding, redundancy, and several examples of successfully completed projects.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Richard Bird has over 60 years' experience in geotechnical engineering and is a specialist in the analysis of groundwater control problems and the design and construction of engineered solutions for these problems. He has worked on major projects throughout the United States and abroad both as a specialty contractor and as a consultant in varied geological conditions (from nearly impervious non-plastic silts to highly pervious sands and gravels). His work has included the design and construction of temporary and permanent seepage control measures for ash ponds, excavations, dams, locks, levees, dry docks, hydroelectric and coal-fired power plants, sewage treatment plants, tunnels, sewer and water lines, channel improvements, and similar infrastructure. He is nationally recognized as a subject matter specialist in groundwater control, has authored or co-authored several papers (for ASCE, ASDSO, ACAA, and USSD) related to dewatering, and has testified as a dewatering expert for clients in trials and arbitrations.

Please register by April 7th at (Limited to 120 Attendees):

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ga7ywwqc?source_id=7f33fc94-0603-4cbc-8294-231b5f26c751&source_type=em&c=3aUp0SHB-wOvXvZvoO9yML7rXOIF-ESuLTZZ9ODHyNSN_-eYB0kog==





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Student Night 2025 Dinner Meeting

**Keynote Speaker : Ernest (Ernie) Hanna, Senior Consultant with GZA
GeoEnvironmental**

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

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.

In 2009, Ernie relocated to GZA's Greater Philadelphia operation, where he has expanded its geotechnical operation, was promoted to Senior Principal, and has served on GZA's Board of Directors. Ernie has also held the positions of Greater Philadelphia District Office Manager and Mid-Atlantic Regional Officer. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in PA, NJ and NY, as well as, DE and MD.

His practice has covered a wide variety of geotechnical projects including buildings, bridges and tunnels, considering both shallow and deep foundations. Ernie's geotechnical engineering experience also includes landfills, dams, slopes and renewable energy projects. He remains active in ASCE, ACEC and the Engineers Club of Philadelphia. Ernie will be retiring from full-time work at GZA in early March, and is looking forward to less work / more fun.





Student Night 2025 Dinner Meeting

This year \$8,000 was awarded in Scholarships!

STUDENT SPEAKERS:

- Reza Jebeli, University of Delaware, "Effects of Pore Water Salinity on the Residual Strength of Kaolinite"
- Avinash Pandey, Rowan University, "Evaluating LiDAR's Capability for Detecting Frost Heave in Cold Regions"
- Catherine Sengstock, Widener University, "Strength Enhancement of SSA-Based Geopolymer Concrete Using GGBS"

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

- Mohamad El Ahmad, Villanova University
 - Juan Zamora, Drexel University
 - Sarah Burghardt, Villanova University
 - Avinash Pandey, Rowan University
 - Maria McNicholas, Drexel University
 - Nasreldeen Hassan, Widener University
 - Jocelin Mayorga, Widener University
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Student Night 2025 Dinner Meeting

Student Night Photo Gallery





Student Night 2025 Dinner Meeting

Student Night Photo Gallery

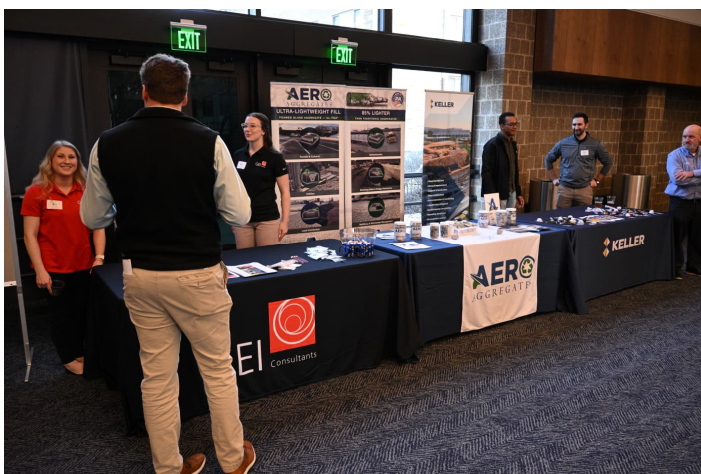




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Student Night Photo Gallery

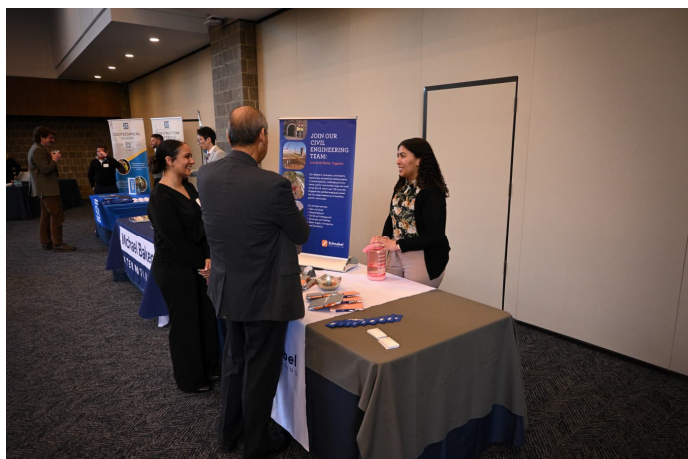
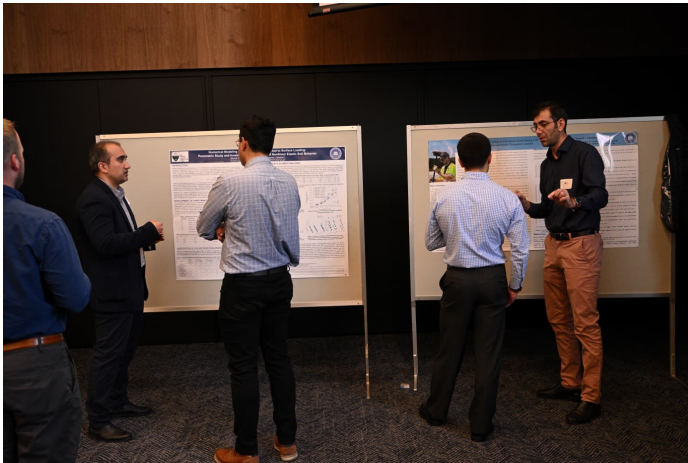




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Student Night 2025 Dinner Meeting

Student Night Photo Gallery





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SPRING EVENTS



**10
APRIL**

ASCE MULTI-TECH DINNER MEETING

Featuring a breakout session by Richard Bird, PE of AECOM titled, "Construction Dewatering - Controlling Groundwater for Excavations and Maintenance." Scan the QR code to the right for details and to register.



**1
MAY**

LUNCHTIME WEBINAR W/ MET SECTION G-I

DVGI will co-host a virtual meeting featuring a presentation by Erika Finan, PE, WEDG of Langan titled, "Best Practices for Quality Control during Rigid Inclusion and Load Transfer Platform Installation."

**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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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
Presents

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Benefitting the Scholarship Fund

THURSDAY JUNE 19, 2025




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Lunch	\$750
50/50 Raffle Tickets	<div style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;"> \$2 for 1 \$5 for 3 \$10 for 8 </div>

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

Sponsorships include Company Signage at the Tee Area.
Prize Donations Always Appreciated!



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A 3D architectural rendering of a modern city skyline with various skyscrapers and green spaces. In the foreground, there are construction cranes and building structures, suggesting a geotechnical or foundation project.

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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



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Upcoming Dates for 2024-25 Dinner Meetings, Webinars and Events are as follows:

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

5/01/2025 – Thursday – Met Section ASCE—Virtual Lunchtime Lecture-
Best Practices for Quality Control during Rigid Inclusion and Load Transfer
Platform Installation

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

6/19/2025 – Thursday – DVGI Annual Golf Outing

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

If you are interested in presenting at one of our monthly meetings or have ideas about potential speakers, please get in touch with a DVGI board member.

NEW DVGI.ORG WEBSITE



Welcome to Delaware Valley Geo-Institute!

- [About Us](#)
- [Awards](#)
- [Corporate Ads and Sponsorship](#)
- [Current Sponsors](#)
- [Geotechnical Resources](#)
- [Newsletter and Attendance](#)
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Check out our revamped website at DVGI.ORG!



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Geosynthetic Institute

GSI RECORDED WEBINARS

- Topics, and Registration at 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

ALL WEBINARS WILL BE RECORDED AND CAN BE PURCHASED FOR VIEWING AT
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GSI/GMA Members \$200.00 USD per each Webinar
Non GSI/GMA Members \$250.00 USD per each Webinar

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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).

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 10 of Season 6, our guest is Omid Ghasemi-Fare of the University of Louisville!

Link : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJFFel89nfs>

ASCE/G-I Members:

Read past and present issues of Geo-Strata magazine online at www.asce.org



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