GEO-INSTITUTE
Delaware Valley Chapter

DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE

DVGI – November 2026 Volume 26, Issue 8

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November 2026 DVGI Dinner Meeting

SPEAKER: John J. Peirce, Jr. of Peirce Engineering, Inc.

TOPIC: " I-95 CP3 Box Sewer & Ramp F Support of Excavation"

DATE: Tuesday November 17, 2026 – Social Hour 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM; Dinner 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM; Presentation 7:30PM to 8:30PM

WHERE: Valley Forge Casino – "Grand Ballroom"
1160 1st Ave, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Cost: $70 General*, $35 Government/Retired*, $10 Student

***Complimentary Drink Ticket Included for Registrants Over 21**

2026 DVGI NOVEMBER MEETING ABSTRACT:

Peirce Engineering, Inc. designed two temporary support of excavation (SOE) systems for General Contractor C. Abbonizio Contractors to facilitate construction of I-95 Southbound Ramp F and the relocated Wissinoming Street box culvert. The project extended along I-95 Southbound between Cottman and Princeton Avenues.

The 573-foot-long Ramp F SOE, ranging from 15 to 24.5 feet high, utilized cantilevered PZC 26 sheet piling, re-groutable tieback anchors, and internal corner bracing near the existing I-95 south abutment. The 800-foot-long box culvert excavation, approximately 33 feet deep and 31 feet wide, required braced sheet piling along both sides, with three tiers of pipe cross braces and corner braces to resist earth, hydrostatic, and construction surcharge pressures. Key challenges included shallow bedrock, high groundwater, and proximity to an existing box culvert and an 84-inch water main.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:



John J. Peirce, Jr. P.E. is a founder of Peirce Engineering, Inc., with over 50 years of design-build experience in building, highway, bridge, and marine projects. His expertise includes temporary and permanent retaining walls, soil and rock anchors, bearing piles, micropiles, drilled shafts, underpinning, soil nail walls, bridges, sheet pile bulkheads, and cofferdams.

He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Soil Mechanics and Construction Management and Geotechnical Engineering, respectively, from Drexel University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, and a retired Professional Land Surveyor in Pennsylvania.

His honors include ASCE Philadelphia Section's 2002 Civil Engineer of the Year and the Engineers Club of Philadelphia's 2019 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year. He is a Life Member and Fellow of ASCE.

Please register at:

DVGI November 2026 Dinner Meeting

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October 2026 DVGI Dinner Meeting

Speakers: Matt Lunemann of STV, Inc., Michael Yang of Michael Baker International, Inc., and Sarah McInnes of PennDOT District 6

Topic: "Design & Construction of I-95 Wall 3SB Micropile Foundations"

2026 OCTOBER MEETING ABSTRACT:

The Interstate 95 (I-95) Section BSR project (construction section BS2) involves the reconstruction and widening of I-95 between Margaret and Carver Streets in Philadelphia, PA. As part of this project, Retaining Walls 2SB and 3SB required redesign during construction as a result of updated T-wall height restrictions.

The 1,200-foot-long Wall 3SB consisted of a cast-in-place retaining wall up to 33-feet-high. The wall was founded on micropiles with more than half of the micropiles battered to resist lateral loading. To meet an aggressive five-month foundation schedule, the micropile bonded zone was located entirely within saprolite above bedrock.

Due to variable saprolite conditions, grout-to-ground bond strength was verified through five sacrificial load tests and proof testing of production piles. The presentation covered the ground conditions, design approach, load testing, construction, and post-testing numerical modeling for the Wall 3SB foundation.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

Matt Lunemann is a Vice President at STV Inc. where he leads their Geotechnical and Tunneling efforts for Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He received his Bachelors and Masters from Rutgers University and served two terms as their alumni president. Matt has served as the geotechnical engineer of record and project manager for numerous projects in Pennsylvania and New Jersey including bridges, roadways, dams, microtunneling, dredging, and coastal protection projects.

Michael Yang is an Associate Vice President and Geotechnical Department Manager at Michael Baker International. He is a registered professional engineer in five states with extensive experience in the transportation industry. Michael received his Bachelors, Masters in China and Ph.D. from University of Tennessee. Dr. Yang is experienced in a wide range of soil and rock conditions in the Northeast region and experienced in geotechnical engineering practice in Bridge, Highway, Transit, and Industrial Facilities.

Sarah McInnes is a Senior Assistant Construction Engineer in PennDOT District 6 serving Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. Prior to holding this position Sarah spent twenty-five years as a Geotechnical Engineer and held the District Geotechnical Engineer position for fifteen years. She has been involved in all phases of transportation project development on the geotechnical side and as the Services Engineer oversees materials, structure control, agreements, constructability and schedule review, and a variety of construction projects. Sarah has a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Syracuse University and a Master's in Civil Engineering from Villanova University.

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October 2026 DVGI Dinner Meeting

Photo Gallery







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Photo Gallery







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ANNOUNCEMENTS: VOTE FOR THE DVGI 2027 STUDENT NIGHT LOCATION

2027 DVGI STUDENT NIGHT VENUE SURVEY:

DVGI is conducting a survey of our membership to determine the location for our Student Night meeting in March of 2027.

The two choices offered are: 1) our past location at the Connelly Center at Villanova University and 2) a Center City location in McCormick Taylor's offices located at 1818 Market Street, Philadelphia due to its closer proximity to the city-based universities, some of our membership, and mass transit. While parking is free at Villanova, there would be a +/- $15.00 fee for using the parking at McCormick Taylor's building. However, due to the lesser cost at McCormick Taylor, DVGI should be able to reduce our up-front registration cost for Student Night if this location is preferred.

Please select one of the two locations in the link below, provide the requested member information and submit your vote before November 30th, 2026.

- Connelly Center, Villanova University, Villanova, PA
- McCormick Taylor's Office, 1818 Market Street, 15th Floor, Philadelphia, PA

2027 DVGI Student Night Venue Survey

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ANNOUNCEMENTS — GETT EXPO 2026

On Saturday, October 24, 2026, members of the DVGI volunteered their time at the Girls Engineering Tomorrow's Technology Expo at the Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA. DVGI has participated in the Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT) Expo every year that it has been held since 2016. GETT is an initiative of the Innovative Technology Action Group (ITAG), a program under the Chester County Economic Development Council. It is hosted by a K-12 school in the greater Delaware Valley. The GETT Expo is an annual day-long event for girls in grades 5 through 10 and their parents to learn about career opportunities in a broad scope of STEM related industries.

We would like to thank our members who volunteered time to support this year's GETT Expo efforts! See www.gettpa.org for more information about the expo!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS – ASCE PHILADELPHIA GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

The ASCE Philadelphia Section Geotechnical Engineer of the Year Award is presented to an individual who is judged to have contributed substantially to the civil engineering profession in the specialty area of geotechnical engineering. The nominees to be considered for the award are typically a section/division lead, project manager, senior/supervisory engineer or similar level of responsibility with 10-15 years of experience minimum and with significant project direction/contributions. Registration as a Professional Engineer (PE) is preferred. Similar professional certifications (PMP) and ASCE Institute or similar specialty certifications/recognitions may be considered in placed of a PE on an individual basis. Nominees must be a dues-paying member of the ASCE Philadelphia Section.

DVGI submits a nomination to the ASCE Philadelphia Section for consideration on behalf of one individual each year.

Interested candidates must submit a short bio and resume to Jeremy Brown (jbrown@schnabel-eng.com) by no later than December 31, 2026 for consideration.



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Location & Work Arrangement
Remote candidates will be considered, with preference given to Pennsylvania-based applicants. Candidates located in other states are encouraged to apply if they hold a Pennsylvania Professional Engineer (PE) license and have experience working with PennDOT. This position is **primarily remote**, with occasional travel anticipated approximately four times per year.

Flexible Schedule
We believe great work can happen on a schedule that works for you. This role offers significant flexibility in working hours, allowing you to structure your workday around your personal and professional commitments while meeting project and client needs.

What You'll Do:

- Prepare and review Subsurface Exploration Planning Submissions
- Develop Structure Foundation Reports for deep and shallow foundations
- Prepare Geotechnical Engineering Reports (GER/RSGER)
- Review PennDOT district submissions for DM-4 and AASHTO LRFD compliance
- Design Earth Retaining Systems and temporary shoring/sheetpile systems
- Run geotechnical analyses using LPILE, PCSTABL, ABLRFD, or similar software
- Coordinate boring and testing programs with drilling subcontractors

What You Bring:

- 10+ years of geotechnical engineering experience on PennDOT projects
- Strong background in PennDOT geotechnical reviews and subsurface investigations
- Proficiency with LPILE, PCSTABL, ABLRFD, or similar geotechnical software
- Active PA PE license (or an active out-of-state PE, eligible to obtain PA licensure)
- Sharp communication skills and a collaborative, detail-oriented mindset

Why McCormick Taylor? Join a family-owned company that's been putting employees, clients, and communities first since 1946, while enjoying a flexible schedule that fits your life and the opportunity to work on meaningful projects. As a Best Place to Work in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, we offer room to grow, including the potential for this role to expand into a full-time opportunity if it's the right fit for everyone.

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Upcoming Dates for 2026-27 Dinner Meetings, Webinars and Events are as follows:

11/17/2026 – Tuesday – Valley Forge Casino – John Peirce, Jr., PE, BC.GE – "I-95-CP3 Box Sewer & Ramp F SOE"

01/19/2027 – Tuesday – Valley Forge Casino – Ricardo Fernos-Jones, PE – "North Millsboro Bypass Grade Separated Intersection"

02/2027 – TBD – Virtual – Tara Hoke, ASCE Counsel – Lunchtime Ethics Webinar – "AI and Engineering"

02/2027 – TBD – Valley Forge Casino – TBA – DVGI/SEI Annual Meeting

03/2027 – TBD – TBA – Jared Green, PE, BC.GE, Keynote Speaker – DVGI Annual Student Night

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

Check out our revamped website at DVGI.ORG!



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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

ALL WEBINARS WILL BE RECORDED AND CAN BE PURCHSED FOR VIEWING AT YOUR CONVENIECE

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 Joseph Murray (joseph.murray@gza.com).

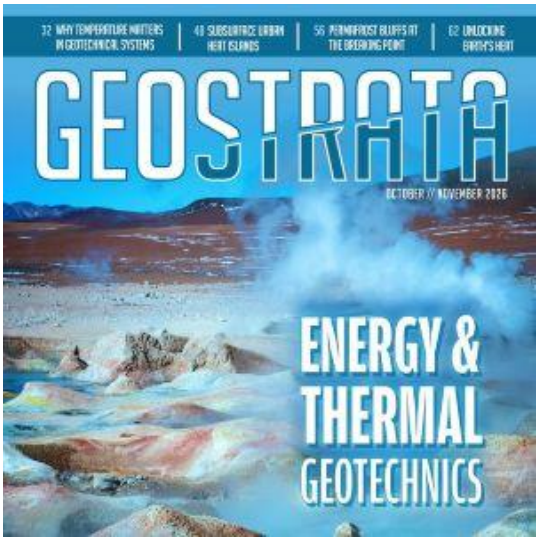
Geo-Institute

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 38 of Season 7, it's our 7th annual Halloween episode! Our guest is Lauren Logan of Ohio Northern University!

https://gi-directorscut.asce.org/e/s07-e38-lauren-logan-ohio-northern-university/associates/

ASCE/G-I Members:
Read past and present issues of Geo-Strata magazine online at

https://www.geoinstitute.org/publications/geostrata



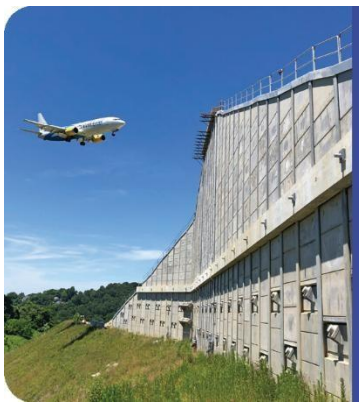
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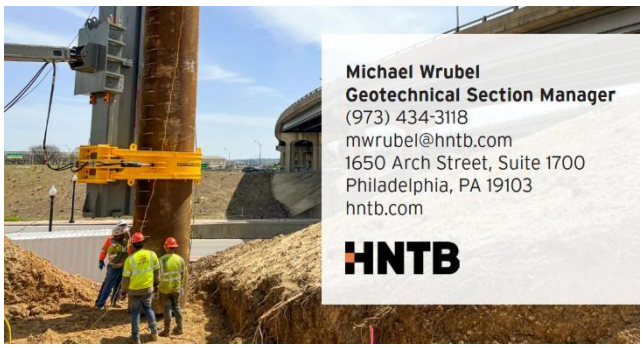
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