



**GEO-
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**Delaware Valley
Chapter**

DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE

DVGI - September, 2025

Volume 25, Issue 6

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September 2025 DVGI Dinner Meeting

SPEAKER: Jennifer Peirce Brandt, P.E. — President, Peirce Engineering

TOPIC: 2024 — 2025 DVGI Project of the Year Winner: "Roberts Children's Health at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia"

DATE: Tuesday September 16, 2025 – Social Hour 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM;
Dinner 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM; Presentations 7:30PM to 8:30PM

WHERE: Valley Forge Casino – "The Venue"

1160 1st Ave, King of Prussia, PA 19406

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

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

2024-2025 DVGI GEOTECHNICAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR ABSTRACT:

The campus expansion project in University City will include an inpatient tower building connected to the flagship hospital. Peirce Engineering collaborated to provide geo-structural services required to jumpstart the project. The project was challenging due to the congested city location surrounded by medical buildings, the unknown geotechnical conditions, and adjacent research buildings and potential noise and vibration impacts. With little space to accommodate a traditional support system, a soil nail system was used to laterally support the existing foundation walls. Additional geotechnical solutions included underpinning, rock bolting, soldier beams and lagging, tieback anchors, and drilled shafts.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Jennifer Peirce Brandt is the President of Peirce Engineering, Inc. She is a registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey with over 30 years of experience in civil, highway, and geotechnical engineering. Her experience includes design of temporary and permanent excavation support systems, micropiles, underpinning, tiebacks, pile load tests, and prefabricated, panel truss bridges. Jennifer holds B.S. degrees in both Civil and Architectural Engineering from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA where she concentrated in Structural Engineering.

Please register by September 11th, 2025 at:

[DVGI September 2025 Dinner Meeting - Geotechnical
Project of the Year](#)





May 2025 DVGI - Cross-USA Lecture– Dinner Meeting

Speaker : Richard J. Bathurst, P.Eng., Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering Royal Military College of Canada

Topic : "From Measurement to LRFD Calibration of MSE Walls"

2024-2025 GEO-INSTITUTE CROSS-USA LECTURE ABSTRACT:

Mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls constructed with steel and geosynthetic reinforcing elements are now well-established technologies. The lecture describes how measurements taken from instrumented full-scale field and laboratory walls were collected and interpreted to quantify the accuracy of current analytical equations used to calculate reinforcement loads in MSE walls under operational (in service) conditions. Databases for the resistance side in internal limit state design equations are described next. The lecture then explains how these measured data have been used to calibrate limit state design equations that appear in the AASHTO load and resistance factor design (LRFD) framework for tensile strength and pullout failure modes. A simple closed-form solution is used to carry out the calculation of the resistance factor for the case of a prescribed load factor. The equation is easily implemented in a spreadsheet and thus avoids the use of Monte Carlo simulation which is often unfamiliar to geotechnical engineers, or at least viewed as tedious. The lecture will remove the cloak of mysticism often associated with the source of resistance and load factors that appear in design codes, and thus give practicing design engineers confidence in their use.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Dr. Bathurst is Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering at the Royal Military College of Canada where he has taught since 1980. He also holds a cross-appointment with the Civil Engineering Department at Queen's University (Canada) and is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Port and Airport Research Institute in Japan (2016-2026). He was the President of the Engineering Institute of Canada (2016-2018), Past-President of the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) (2013-2014), Past-President of the International Geosynthetics Society (1998-2002) and Past-President of the North American Geosynthetics Society (1998). Dr. Bathurst has authored or co-authored 230 papers in referred journals and made over 300 other scholarly contributions.

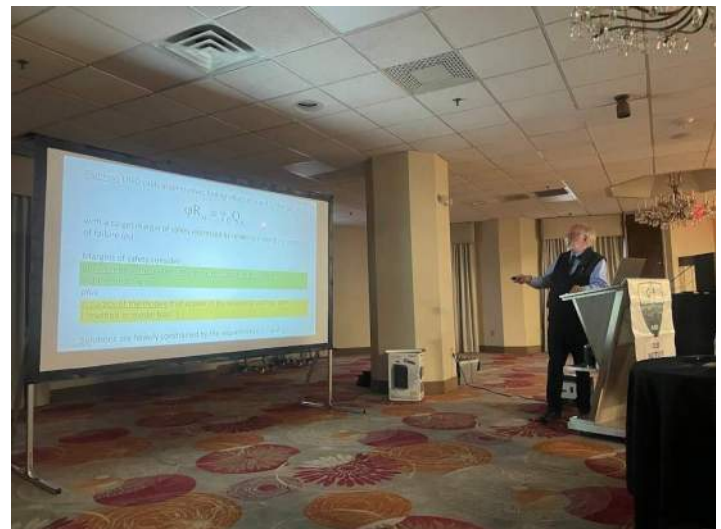




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May 2025 DVGI - Cross-USA Lecture– Dinner Meeting

Photo Gallery





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May 2025 DVGI - Cross-USA Lecture– Dinner Meeting

Photo Gallery





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ANNOUNCEMENTS: DVGI PROJECT OF THE YEAR 2024-25

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024-2025 PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER: PEIRCE ENGINEERING, INC.!**

September's dinner meeting will include a presentation on this project.





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ANNOUNCEMENTS—SAVE THE DATE FOR THE GETT EXPO 2025

The Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology ® (GETT) Expo is an annual event for girls in grades 4-10, along with their parents and educators, to learn more about career opportunities in a broad scope of STEM related industries. The day is filled with exciting and enlightening experiences including hands-on activities lead by successful women in STEM fields. GETT is a free event to all students, however accompanying adults will be charged a fee of \$10 to attend, to help offset event costs.

GETT 2025 is taking place at the The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, PA on November 1st from 10am – 2pm. For information about registration, please visit <https://gettpa.org>.

If you'd like to volunteer at GETT 2025 as a representative of DVGI, or have suggestions for demonstrations, please contact Theresa Loux (tloux@aeroaggregates.com).



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ANNOUNCEMENTS—GOLF OUTING REVIEW

On Thursday, June 19th, 2025, 81 DVGI members and friends participated in the annual DVGI Golf Outing at Kimberton Golf Club in Phoenixville. Engineers, contractors, and suppliers took time out of their busy schedules to support the DVGI scholarship fund. The weather was perfect, and the refreshments were cold for the 9 a.m. start at the beautiful venue. The outing was a scramble format inviting all levels of golf skill.

The Keystone-Foundation team posted the best team score overall (-4, 66), while the ECS/Peak Utility Locators team had the dubious honor of the worst or “most honest” team score (+30, 100). After the round of golf, participants gathered for lunch and drinks on the patio. Michael Derr, P.E. (Geo-Technology Associates, Inc. (GTA)) won the longest drive hole while Michael Shedlosky (MENARD USA) won the closest to the pin prize (8'-9") and Andrew Crivelli (GeoConstructors Inc.) mastered the Shortest Driver.

The event was a great chance for DVGI members and friends to socialize in a more casual setting. Shout-out to DVGI Director, Conrad Cho, P.E., LEED AP (Langan Engineering & Environmental Services) for staffing the registration table and roaming the course with refreshments. And a big THANK YOU to DVGI Director, Lei Gu, PE, PMP, ENV SP (Michael Baker International) for his continued efforts as our Golf Outing Chair!

Special thanks to our 21 sponsors which made the event a huge success and provided over \$7,000 for the DVGI Scholarship Fund. The money will be distributed to students during DVGI's annual Student Night dinner meeting next March. Thank you for helping us make this a record-setting year! We hope to see you all again, at next year's outing.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS—GOLF PHOTO ALBUM





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An advertisement for Langan. The top half features a photograph of a bridge with the word 'LANGAN' in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters overlaid. Below the photo is a brown trapezoidal banner with the text 'WE ARE HIRING!' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of this banner is a white rectangular box containing the text: 'Langan's Philadelphia Geotechnical group is growing. See how you can make an impact by joining our collaborative teams.' To the right of the white box are two circular award logos. The top one is a 'Hot Firm' award with a flame icon and the text 'Hot Firm' and '2024'. The bottom one is a 'Best Firms To Work For' award with a star icon and the text '2024 Best Firms To Work For'. At the bottom of the advertisement is a dark blue horizontal bar with the text 'LANGAN.COM/CAREERS' in white, sans-serif capital letters.

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2024

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Upcoming Dates for 2025-26 Dinner Meetings, Webinars and Events are as follows:

9/16/2025 – Tuesday – Jennifer Peirce Brandt, P.E. — 2024-2025 DVGI
Geotechnical Project of the Year: "Roberts Children's Health at
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia"

10/14/2025 – Tuesday – Melinda Eason, P.E. — "Geotechnical Review of
Beach Nourishment at Indian River Inlet"

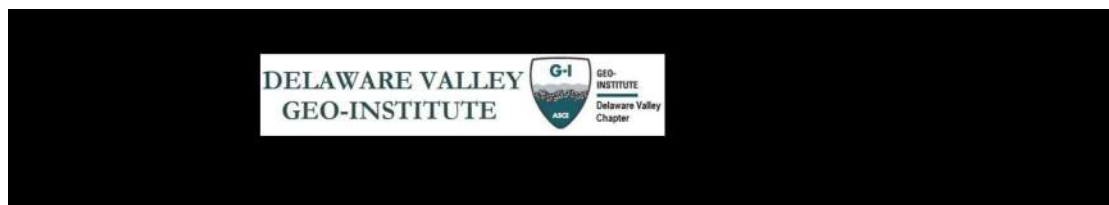
11/01/2025 – Saturday – GETT Expo 2025

11/18/2025 – Tuesday – Save the Date – Speaker & Topic TBD

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](#)
- [Students and Scholarships](#)

Check out our revamped website at DVGI.ORG!



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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 (jmurray@mrce.com).

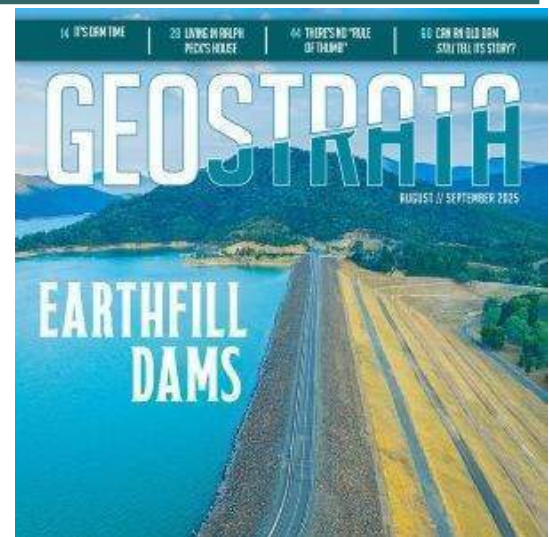
Geo-Institute

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 30 of Season 6, our guest is Juan Pestana of Geosyntec!

gi-directorscut.asce.org/e/s06-e30-juan-pestana-geosyntec/

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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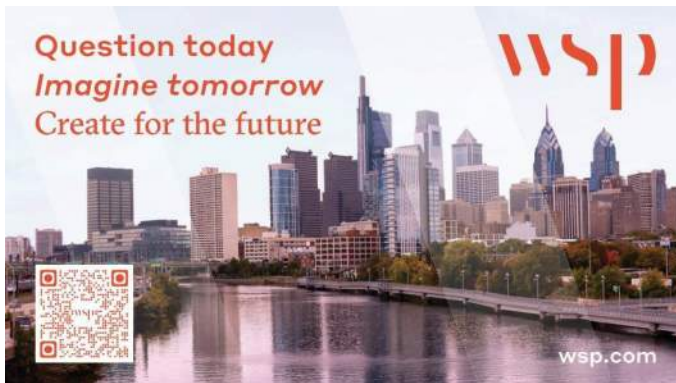


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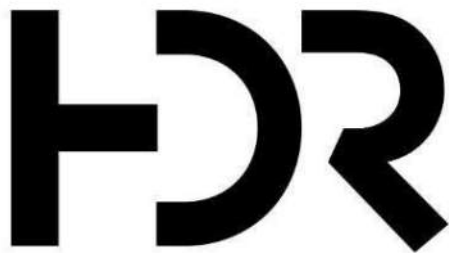
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