



**GEO-
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Delaware Valley
Chapter

DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE

DVGI - January, 2026

Volume 26, Issue 1

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January 2026 DVGI Dinner Meeting

SPEAKERS: George R. Koerner, Ph.D., P.E. & CQA — Geosynthetic Institute (GSI), Director

TOPIC: "Lifetime Predictions of Exposed HP-TRM — Geogrids Used on MSE Structures."

DATE: Tuesday January 20, 2026 – 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 – “Parkview Ballroom”
1160 1st Ave, King of Prussia, PA 19406

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

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

MEETING ABSTRACT:

A most frequently asked question regarding all types of geosynthetics is, “How long will they last?” This presentation answers the question for exposed high performance Turf Reinforcement Mats and geogrid assuming that they were properly designed and installed.

For exposed geosynthetics, ultraviolet radiation, elevated temperature and full oxygen are available which shortens the service lifetime, but how much? For evaluation of this situation, we utilized laboratory ultraviolet fluorescent tube weathering devices per ASTM D7238 for incubation purposes and ASTM D5970 for outdoor exposure. Four different HP-TRMs and two specially formulated geogrid were evaluated. Each different material was incubated at 80, 70 and 60°C until 50% reduction of strength and elongation occurred. The data was then extrapolated down to 20°C for laboratory half-life values and for comparison with the nonexposed condition. The ratio of nonexposed to exposed lifetime will be approximated. The calculations for the four exposed geosynthetics then progressed to using site-specific radiation so as to obtain an equivalent field life.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

George R. Koerner, Ph.D., P.E. & CQA is Director of the Geosynthetic Institute. He is in charge of laboratory accreditation, field certification and continuing education. He also manages several research projects and has published over 300 technical papers in his 40 year association with polymers used in below ground construction. Dr. Koerner’s Ph.D. is from Drexel University in Geotechnical Engineering. He is a registered professional engineer and a certified quality auditor. George has received many awards over the years. The most notable being IFAI’s Environmental Technologies Award of Excellence 1995, ASCE’s DVGI Geotechnical Engineer of the year in 2004, the title of ASTM Fellow in 2013, GMA’s first Koerner lecturer in 2017 and the title of ASCE Fellow in 2020.



Please register by January 15th, 2025 at:

[DVGI January Dinner Meeting](#)



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November 2025 DVGI Dinner Meeting

**Speakers : Catherine Chia-Calabria, P.E. — McCormick Taylor ;
Jason Taylor, P.E. — Susquehanna Civil**

Topic : “The Story of Hanging Rock — SR 320 Section M07, Montgomery Co.”

MEETING ABSTRACT:

PennDOT District 6 had long considered Hanging Rock a “legacy” project. Due to its complex nature of design, location, and environmental permitting issues, this project was with the Department for more than 20 years. After many attempts to advance the project, PennDOT subsequently selected McCormick Taylor and was successful in bringing the project to construction, completing the design in just 3 years. The project team worked through the rigorous environmental clearance process and complexities of the site to achieve a new design that reconstructed the flood prone roadway, raising it above the 100-year flood elevation.

The project installed nearly 1,000 linear feet of retaining wall for support against the fast-moving waters of Gulph Creek during storm events. A 600-foot-long section of the retaining wall features a can-levered roadway over the creek to move the travel lanes away from the historic Hanging Rock. This simple yet innovative solution allowed for conventional means and methods of construction to achieve the project goals and restore mobility and safety on PA 320. The project was recognized as the ASHE Delaware Valley Section Project of the Year 2022 for projects under \$20 million.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

Catherine Chia-Calabria, PE is Senior Manager for Structural Engineering at McCormick Taylor. She is a registered Professional Engineer in six states and has 40 years of experience in the design and construction of transportation structural facilities. Her extensive project experience includes steel and concrete bridges, culverts, retaining walls, noise walls and sign structures.



**McCORMICK
TAYLOR**

Jason Taylor, PE, PG is a licensed Professional Engineer and Professional Geologist with over 24 years of experience in geotechnical engineering and environmental consulting. As Geotechnical Group Manager at Susquehanna Civil, he leads complex infrastructure projects across Pennsylvania, specializing in foundation design, slope stability, retaining walls, and subsurface investigations.



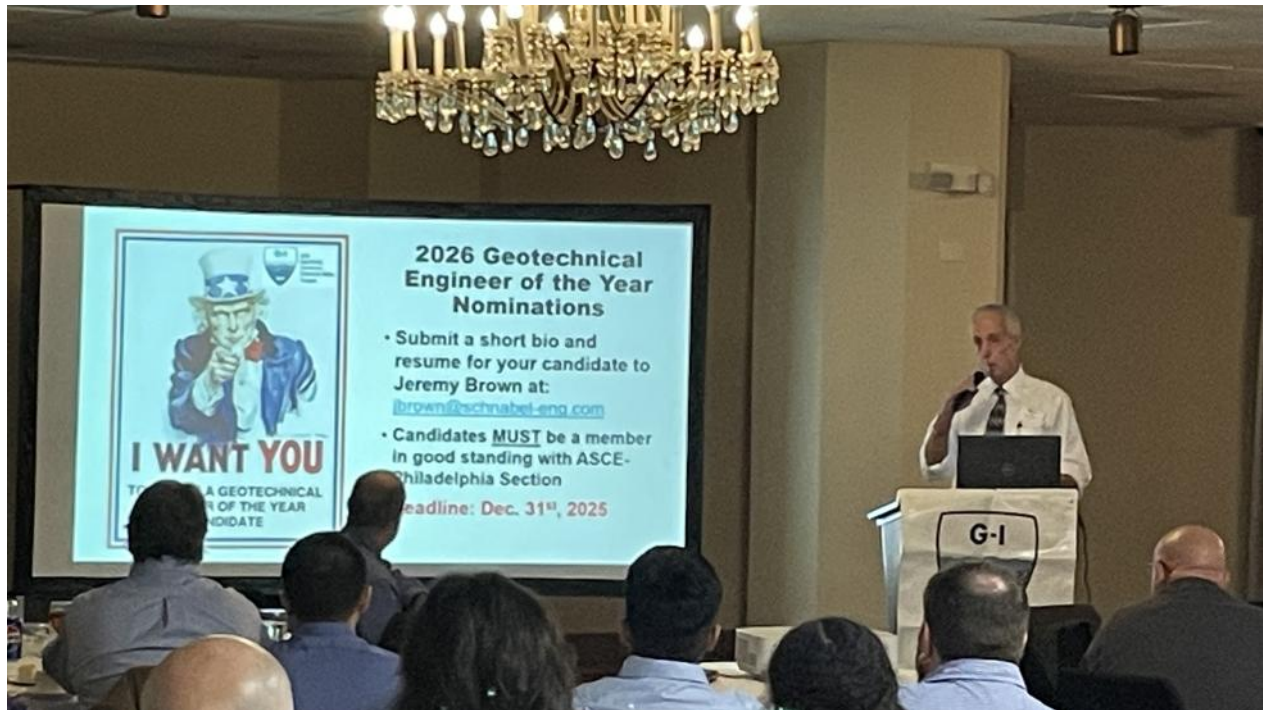
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November 2025 DVGI – Dinner Meeting

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

01/20/2026 — George Koerner, Ph.D., P.E. & CQA — “Lifetime Predictions of Exposed HP-Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRMs) and Geogrids used on MSE Structures”

01/28/2026, 12:00 - 1:00PM — Dr. Mike Toole — “ASCE & DAPE Codes of Ethics from a Geotechnical Perspective” Virtual Webinar

02/19/2026 — Joint SEI Meeting — Catherine Chia-Calabria, P.E. & Craig Calabria, Ph.D., P.E. — “James St. Bridge Replacement over the Christina River — Newport, DE”

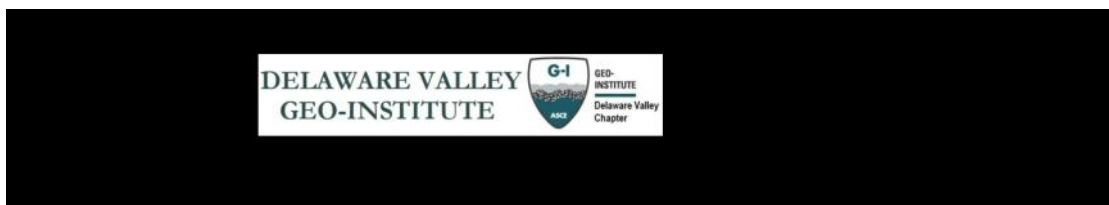
03/2026 — Student Night at Villanova — Mike Giovannitti — “ASCE Philadelphia 2025 Geotechnical Engineer of the Year Keynote”

04/16/2026 — Joint Multi-Tech Meeting at The Inn at Swarthmore— Speaker/Topic TBA

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!

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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
 - Each presentation lasts approximately 90 minutes

ALL WEBINARS WILL BE RECORDED AND CAN BE PURCHASED FOR VIEWING AT 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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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).

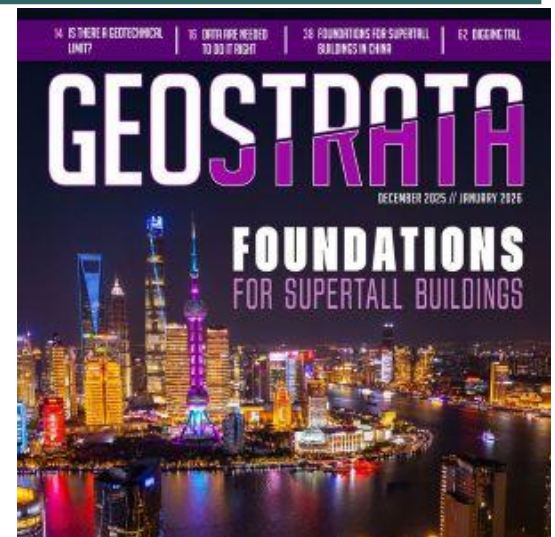
Geo-Institute

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 14 of Season 5, our guest is Diane Moug of Portland State University. Diane is also on the program committees for Geo-EnvironMeet and IFCEE 2024!

<https://gi-directorscut.asce.org/e/s05-e14-diane-moug-portland-state-university/>

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

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