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Delaware Valley
Chapter

DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE

DVGI - February, 2026

Volume 26, Issue 2

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February 2026 DVGI-SEI Joint Dinner Meeting

SPEAKERS: Bryan Healy, PE, Catherine Chia-Calabria, PE, and Craig Calabria, PhD

TOPIC: "James Street Bridge Replacement over the Christina River – Newport, Delaware"

DATE: Tuesday February 24, 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:

The existing James Street bridge was the only means by which large trucks could have access to a major industrial park located on the north side of the Christina River. The replacement bridge was constructed slightly off alignment to allow large trucks continued access across the existing bridge. On the south side of the river is the Christina River Force Main (CRFM), a 72” diameter non-redundant sanitary sewer in poor condition. The sewer line runs parallel to the river and is directly beneath the approach roadway of the existing bridge. Concern for the integrity of the CRFM took centerstage throughout design and construction.

ABOUT THE SPEAKES:

Bryan Healy, PE is a Manager at McCormick Taylor with over 25 years of experience in the fields of structural and transportation engineering. He has experience in both large and small bridge design projects with both steel and concrete bridges. He is a licensed engineer in 4 states and a graduate of Penn State and Villanova Universities.



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. Catherine graduated from Drexel University.



Craig Calabria, PhD has more than four decades of experience in the engineering and construction industry. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in geotechnical/geo-environmental engineering from Drexel University and a Doctorate in Civil Engineering from University of Salford, Manchester, UK. Dr. Calabria is a Registered Professional Engineer in several states and has worked on projects throughout the USA and in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Canada and the Caribbean. Craig is also Board Advisor and Governor Emeritus of the DVGI.



Please register by February 20th, 2026 at:

[DVGI February Dinner Meeting](#)



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January 2026 DVGI Dinner Meeting

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

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

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.





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January 2026 DVGI – Dinner Meeting

Photo Gallery





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Photo Gallery





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January 2026 DVGI – Ethics Webinar

Webinar Summary

ETHICAL ISSUES IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Speaker

T. Michael Toole, PhD, PE(PA), F.ASCE

The first part of this one-hour webinar will provide an overview of the American Society of Civil Engineers Code of Ethics and the ethical content of professional engineering regulations from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The second part will apply these codes 3-4 "real-world" scenarios involving business development for geotechnical engineering services.

About the Speaker

T. Michael Toole, PhD, PE(PA), F.ASCE



T. Michael Toole has had a 30-year career as an entrepreneurial and interdisciplinary leader in the military, industry and academia. Before serving as the Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Toledo from 2017-2024, he spent 18 years at Bucknell University that included serving as an Associate Dean of Engineering, a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Director of the Institute for Leadership in Technology and Management. Mike received his B.S. from Bucknell and his Masters and Ph.D. from M.I.T. A professional civil engineer registered in Pennsylvania and a Fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers, he initiated and maintains <https://designforconstructionsafety.org>. His professional employment includes serving five years of active duty as an officer in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps and management positions with a publicly traded homebuilder and a multidisciplinary engineering firm.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS — DVGI Geotechnical Project of the Year Award

We want to hear about the work **YOU** do! Each year, DVGI recognizes a distinguished geotechnical project recently completed in the region based on submissions by its member organizations. The recipient of the DVGI Geotechnical Project of the Year (GPOY) Award has the opportunity to present their project and receive their award at our September 2026 meeting.

Submissions are featured in the DVGI Newsletter in the order received. DVGI will announce the winner at its May Dinner Meeting on May 19, 2026 at Valley Forge Casino Resort's Parkview Ballroom (registration details to be provided at a later date). Project submissions will be accepted through May 1, 2026. Best of wishes in preparing your submissions – we look forward to seeing them!

You may download the submission template for your 2026 GPOY submission by visiting <https://dvgi.org/awards>.

Project submissions will be accepted through May 1, 2026.





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ANNOUNCEMENTS — ASCE 2027 Abstract Submission Deadline

Calling all big thinkers! The infrastructure challenges of today require new kinds of solutions. YOUR solutions. So what's your big idea? ASCE2027 is your platform to showcase the next great infrastructure solution.

Submit your abstract below to share your insights and ideas for ASCE2027.

[Submit an Abstract](#)

[Abstract Guidelines](#)

Abstract Deadline is March 4, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET.



ASCE2027

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

02/24/2026 — Joint SEI Meeting — Catherine Chia-Calabria, P.E. & Craig Calabria, Ph.D., P.E. — “James St. Bridge Replacement over the Christina River — Newport, DE”

03/31/2026 — Student Night at Villanova — Mike Giovannitti — “ASCE Philadelphia 2025 Geotechnical Engineer of the Year Keynote”

04/14/2026 — Joint Multi-Tech Meeting at The Inn at Swarthmore— Mohab A. Hussein, Ph.D., PE, PMP, DBIA — “NJDOT Route 80 Emergency Repairs Project”

05/19/2026 — Gardner Lecture Through John Volk

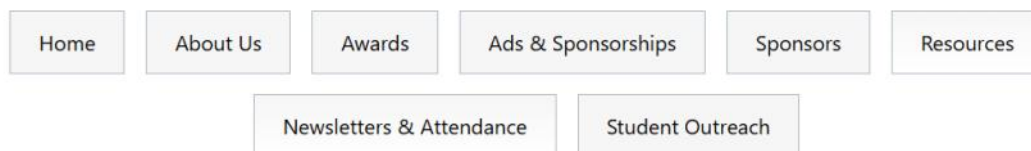
05/30/2026 — STEM-fest 2026 at the American Helicopter Museum & Education Center, West Chester, PA

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!



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
 - Each presentation lasts approximately 90 minutes

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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).

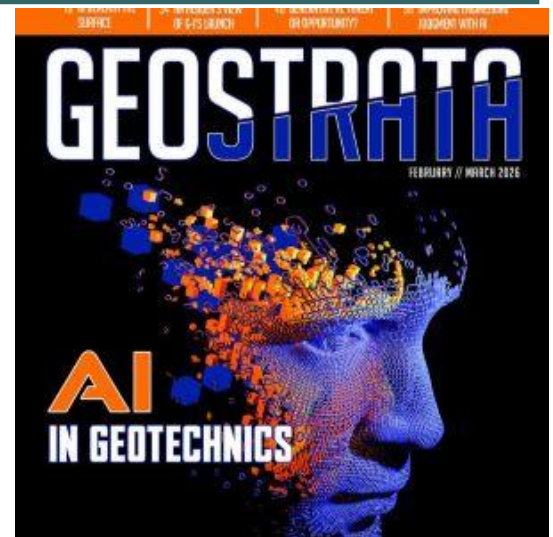
Geo-Institute

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 7 of Season 5, our guest is Jorge Zornberg of University of Texas at Austin, the 2024 Peck Lecturer!

<https://gi-directorscut.asce.org/e/s05-e07-jorge-zornberg-university-of-texas-at-austin/>

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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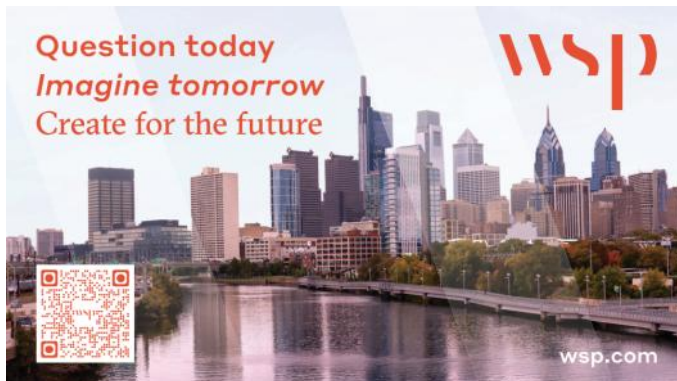



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