

Civil Engineering Graduates

Fall 2023

Arellano, Nicole B
Boresky, Mitchell L
Buttry, Charles J
Guiltner, Jaden M
Hernandez, Leobardo J
Jaimes, Misael
Mejia Becerril, Carlos

Sharp, Andrew G
Sieb, Kevin
Smith, Billy M
Williams, Alysia R
Williams, Blair C
Williams, Jackson C
Young, Emily G

Spring 2024

Barton, Joshua Christopher
Bowens, Cordell Devon
Conrad, Malik Rashad
Criswell, Alannah Shea
Doland, Jason R
Estevanott, Ivan R
Hearns, T'imra Dianne
Huynh, Andrew
Ibarra, Edgar Eduardo
Mitchell, Lauren Nichole

Nelson, Caneilius
Orellana, Andres Xavier
Person, Zachary Jacob
Pitts, Essence Donlecia
Rodriguez, Alberto
Tiscareno, Julissa Ana
Waldron, Jeremy Matthew
Walicke, Kristofor M
Walsh, Liam Thomas
Welch, Rebecca Ann

Special thanks to the following engineering firms and supporters who graciously sponsored tables for their employees and our students.



Dr. Calvin Abernathy

Alumni Loyalty Award Previous Recipients

Gregory Taylor Webb - 2018
James Collins – 2017
Douglas Dietz – 2015
Dr. John Jernigan – 2013
Janet Condra Berry – 2012
Brad Davis – 2010

Charles H. White – 2009
Robert H. Dobbs, Jr. – 2008
Edward Lee Schultz – 2007
Laura Rowland – 2006
John Gordon – 2005
Claire Barnett – 2004

2024 Civil Engineering Faculty/Staff

Dr. Shahram Pezeshk
Mrs. Revon Thaxter
Dr. Adel Abdelnaby
Dr. David Arellano
Dr. Charles Camp
Dr. Pegah Farshadmanesh
Dr. Michail Gkolias

Dr. Stephanie Ivey
Dr. Farhad Jazaei
Dr. Claudio Meier
Dr. Roger Meier
Dr. Sabyasachee Mishra
Dr. Paul Palazolo
Dr. Brian Waldron

Department of Civil Engineering 18th Annual Banquet



Thursday, April 11, 2024

Holiday Inn, Tennessee Ballroom

University of Memphis

5:45 to 9 p.m.



Alumni of the Year Award Recipients

Claire Barnett, Senior Engineer at EnSafe Inc.



Claire retired from EnSafe Inc. as an Associate Principal/Project Manager in 2018, after 21 years in environmental consulting. Most of her experience at EnSafe involved environmental studies, investigations, and cleanups at Navy bases in the southeast U.S. She is currently working part-time at EnSafe in the Civil Design group, assisting with construction oversight. Claire received her Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Memphis, while at Allen & Hoshall, where she worked for 19 years. Her work at Allen & Hoshall included water and wastewater system studies and

Zack Daniel, P.E., Vice President/Client Services Leader at CDM Smith, Inc.



Zack is a Vice President and Client Services Leader for CDM Smith in their Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee offices managing all projects and operations in middle and western Tennessee, Arkansas, north Alabama and portions of Kentucky. Zack earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Civil Engineering from The University of Memphis and has over 23 years of experience in stormwater, water, wastewater, solid waste and other civil and environmental projects. Locally, one of his proudest achievements is the on-going T.E. Maxson WWTP Design/Construction Manager at Risk projects where his team is delivering a \$235M improvements project for one of the City’s two primary wastewater treatment facilities.

Zack is active in the KY-TN sections of the American Water Works

John Paul Finerson, VP of Production at Lehman-Roberts/Memphis Stone & Gravel



For the past 28 years, John Paul has been employed by Lehman-Roberts and sister company Memphis Stone & Gravel, both of which were acquired by Granite Construction in December 2023. In his current role as Vice President of Production, John Paul serves both companies through the management of asphalt plants, aggregate mining, aggregate wash plants, plant maintenance, quality control, and fabrication shop. In the past 12 years, he worked in similar roles also managing the Project Management and Construction Divisions. John Paul’s early expe-

designs and landfill design. Over the years, Claire has been an active member and served in leadership roles in the American Society of Civil Engineers (West Tennessee Branch and Tennessee Section), Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, Memphis Post of the Society of American Military Engineers, and the Memphis Joint Engineers Council. She also has been active with the local Girl Scout Council serving as a troop leader, trainer of Girl Scout leaders, and on the board of directors. She has served on the Herff College Civil Engineering Advisory Board for many years and has been on two environmental engineering professor search committees. Claire also served on the University of Memphis Engineering Alumni Board.

Association (AWWA) and Clean Water Professionals (CWP) having previously served in numerous leadership roles including Section Chair for AWWA in 2013-2014, Section Director on the Association Board of Directors from 2019 -22 and currently on the Association Manufacturer’s and Associates Council. He is also active with American Public Works Association (APWA) and American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). Zack is married to Ashley, whom is a fellow graduate of the University of Memphis, where they meet at Frosh Camp in 1997 and participated in many college leadership organizations including Student Government Association, Up ‘til Dawn fundraiser for St. Jude, Greek life and Student Activities Council. In fact, Zack was selected as Mr. University of Memphis in 2000. They have been married for almost 22 years and have five children, Kate, Jake, Cooper, Bo and Caleb, and spend their time cheering and supporting sporting and school events for their children and the Tigers!

rience in the field entailed working as a project engineer which involved estimating, bidding, and managing commercial, industrial, residential, municipal, DOT, and airport projects. John Paul earned his B.S.C.E. from the University of Memphis in 1995 and his M.B.A. from the University of Memphis in 2013. He is an active member of TRBA especially within the Scholarship Committee. In addition, he has fulfilled the role of President of AGC West TN Chapter along with serving on the board of AGC of TN. Additionally, John Paul has been co-chairperson of the committee that most recently helped form the Civil Engineering Construction Management Program at the University of Memphis. John Paul also serves as a member of the University of Memphis Civil Engineering Advisory Council.

Service Award Recipient

Jeff Borgsmiller, Preconstruction Executive at Turner Construction Company



Jeff’s 29-year career in the construction industry has taken him from structural design of signature bridge around the world, to heavy highway construction equipment engineering, to commercial building construction management where he serves in his current position as Preconstruction Executive at Turner Construction in Memphis. In his current role Jeff co-leads Turner’s Memphis business operation and oversees all the preconstruction planning, estimating, and scheduling required prior to construction commencing on Turner’s Mid-South construction projects. Jeff’s early experience in structural design consulting and diverse professional experiences lend themselves to understanding the challenges

owners have in developing their vision, and he loves leading the team that serves as a strong advocate to help clients make their dreams a reality. Jeff earned his B.S.C.E. from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1993 and his M.S.C.E (Structural Engineering) from Virginia Tech in 2005. Over the years Jeff has worked with the Chambers of Commerce in the various cities in which he’s lived, and is a Graduate of the Leadership Memphis program, Class of 2020. Just prior to moving to Memphis in 2016, Jeff worked on an advisory board with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in developing a new Construction Engineering program. Once he moved to Memphis, Jeff immediately volunteered to working as co-chairperson of the committee that most recently helped form the Civil Engineering Construction Management Program at the University of Memphis.

Program

Social Hour	5:45-6:30 p.m.
Dinner	6:30 p.m.
Welcome	7 p.m. Dr. Shahram Pezeshk
State of the Department	Dr. Shahram Pezeshk
Recognition of Graduates	Dr. Shahram Pezeshk
Senior Awards	Dr. Shahram Pezeshk
Dr. Thomas S. Fry Academic Award	William H. Daniel, 2023 Liam Thomas Walsh, 2024
Dr. Fred H. Kellogg Award	Dawson C. Maynard, 2023 Mitchell Leverett Boresky, 2024
Dr. T. S. Wu Design Award	Connor A. Pezeshk, 2023 Sergio Mauricio Benavides, 2024
Outstanding Graduate Student Award	Christie Assadollahi, 2023 Francesco Dell’Aira, 2024
ASCE Report	Presented by Connor Caskey ASCE Student Chapter President
ASCE Faculty of the Year	Presented by Connor Caskey
EERI Report	Presented by Liam Thomas Walsh
Distinguished Alumni Awards	Presented by Dr. Shahram Pezeshk Claire Barnett Zack Daniel John Paul Finerson
Outstanding Service Award	Presented by Dr. Shahram Pezeshk Jeff Borgsmiller
Special Presentation	Dean Okenwa Okoli
Acknowledgments/Closing	Dr. Shahram Pezeshk