AEG NEWS

WINTER 2025

Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists

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AEG News (ISSN 0899-5788; USPS 954-380) is published quarterly (March, April, July, and December) by the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG), 2840 West Bay Drive #141, Belleair Bluffs, FL, 33770-2620. Periodicals postage paid at Clearwater, FL and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *AEG News*, 2840 West Bay Drive #141, Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770-2620

The Annual Meeting Program with Abstracts is published only digitally, in September, and the digital copies are distributed at the AEG Annual Meeting.

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Submission Information
For detailed guidelines visit: **www.aegweb.org/assets/docs/Publications/News/AEG_News_StyleGuide_2025.pdf**

Advertising in the News
Contact AEG at **manager@aegweb.org**.

Submission Deadlines
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Canada Agreement number: PM40063731; Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Station A, PO Box 54; Windsor, ON N9A 6J5; Email: returnsil@imex.pb.com

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Annual Meeting Fun

By Allie Boman, *AEG News* Production Editor

[TOP] Three cheers for Bill Roman and Martha Whitney, editors of *AEG News*, jointly honored with the 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award. [BOTTOM] Allie and Whitney Larson, graphic designer, on the Special Event: Architectural Cruise on the Chicago River.

Greetings, AEG! Whitney and I had a lot of fun attending the first day of the Annual Meeting. Since we're based in Chicago, it was a great opportunity to meet many of you in person.

At the opening session, we were pleased to cheer on our *AEG News* compatriots, Bill Roman (content editor) and Martha Whitney (acquisitions editor). These two received the 2025 Outstanding Volunteer Award for very good reason. They put their expertise and experience to good use, seeing opportunities for content and ensuring the articles submitted are robust and clear. They make sure *AEG News* connects us and champions the good work our members are doing around the world.

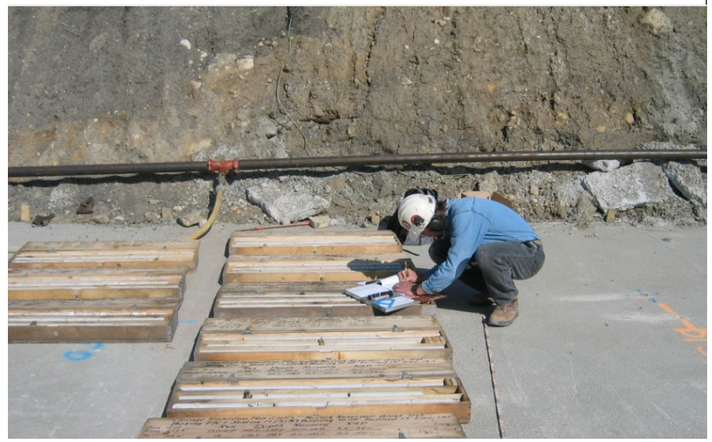
Another highlight from the opening session was witnessing the surprise for Dr. Abdul Shakoor. He is being honored with a scholarship in his name, which covers the open access fee for students publishing in *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience*. Dr. Shakoor served as coeditor for that journal for many years. His warm remarks stayed with me: He said that, for him, the real award is the friends he's made in AEG. On paper, that looks like it could be a platitude. But in person, Dr. Shakoor's joy and sincerity were unmistakable.

Speaking of surprise, you would not believe the size of the tunnels underneath Chicago. I wouldn't have, except for the photos and detailed explanation from Kevin Fitzpatrick, who presented on this year's Outstanding Environmental & Engineering Geology Project Award. In another context, I'd have thought them AI generated. But Mr. Fitzpatrick, a civil engineer at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, walked through the history, the science, and the future of this mammoth project. I went home and told my kids all about it. They took it as a very cool story that is probably not true.

We hope you enjoy this issue, which includes further stories from the 2025 annual meeting and updates from the AEG network around the world.

Winter Greetings

By Bill Roman, *AEG News* Content Editor

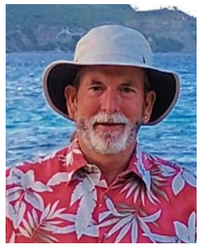


Logging core holes [TOP] and using an optical televiewer to image angled core holes [BOTTOM] during the McCook Reservoir grout test project in 2003.

Welcome to the winter issue of *AEG News*. I begin by expressing my gratitude to AEG's Board of Directors and Executive Council for honoring me and *AEG News* Acquisitions Editor Martha Whitney with the 2025 Outstanding Volunteer Award. I regret that circumstances prevented both of us from attending the in-person meeting in Chicago to receive the award. I also express my gratitude to *AEG News* Production Editor Allie Boman and Graphic Designer Whitney Larson of Boman Communications for their efforts in preparing each issue of *AEG News* and for their wonderful redesign of *AEG News*, which debuted this spring. Moreover, I am grateful to my colleagues for their help on revising the *AEG News* style guide. The revised style guide can be downloaded from the *AEG News* webpage (https://www.aegweb.org/aeg-news-2), and I encourage contributors to use it since doing so makes my job as content editor a heck of a lot easier.

I was disappointed to miss the annual meeting in Chicago as I was looking forward to seeing how the McCook Reservoir turned out, having worked on the initial grout test for the project in 2003. Back then, I felt privileged to be able to observe and log samples from core holes over 400 feet deep and to collect borehole images of rocks recording the Ordovician and Silurian seas that once occupied the area we now call Chicago.

This winter issue of *AEG News* features messages from AEG's president, vice president, and association manager; announcement of the AEG Foundation's newest award; field camp reports from three Beardsley-Kuper scholars; a spotlight on a young member and volunteer; and a remembrance of J. David Rogers. The issue also includes updates from four AEG operational committees, one technical working group, and three chapters. Our special section provides a recap of AEG's 68th Annual Meeting in Chicago, and our news of the profession section includes an update on PG licensure in Virginia and a blurb on next year's James Hutton tercentenary.



Moving AEG Forward—Together

Despite challenging times, AEG is striving to advance its goals **By Paul M. Weaver, 2025–26 AEG President**

Paul speaking at the annual meeting.

It is an honor for me to take on the role of AEG president. I hope you will be pleased with how I carry out the duties of this position and the decisions I make to move AEG forward. I promise to always keep what's best for AEG—not only for now but also for the long term—at the forefront of everything I do as your president. I strongly believe that with the assistance of our excellent Executive Council and Board of Directors, we'll be able to accomplish great things.

The last couple of years have been rough for AEG given the situation with how we lost our previous association management company, bringing a new management company onboard without the usual assistance in the transition from the previous company, and monetary losses on two consecutive annual meetings. I will be working diligently during my term as president to improve and streamline administrative processes and to move forward initiatives to make AEG stronger financially and better able to serve our membership.

I think it's fair to say that 2025 has proven to be a challenging year for the majority of us. The attacks on science, history, and facts in-general currently taking place in the United States have affected AEG in ways ranging from how we approach outreach to historically marginalized groups to how we position ourselves in an uncertain future as an association established by and for scientists. In addition, the slashing of government employee positions and the restrictions on government-funded travel have severely affected our membership, in both membership numbers and the outlook of our members, and has negatively affected the attendance numbers for our annual meeting, which has historically been a major source of funding for AEG.

AEG's values are based on the belief that its members have a responsibility to assume stewardship over their fields of expertise. In support of serving an international network of environmental and engineering geologists devoted to excellence, AEG values:

- Upholding sound principles of scientific inquiry with respect to the study and evaluation of geologic processes, their impact on humans, and the human impact on Earth,
- Encouraging and facilitating ongoing education and training as well as supporting members in their dedication to their work, and
- Building public appreciation for how environmental and engineering geology contribute to public safety and the protection of property.

I will work diligently during my term to improve and streamline processes and to **move forward initiatives to make AEG stronger**.

AEG's Strategic Plan identifies three major goals for the association:

- Communication: to improve the AEG experience and communicate it effectively,
- Profession: to promote and advance the value of applied geology for the public good, and
- Membership: to provide applied geology professionals a place to thrive personally and professionally.

In order to follow our values and our strategic plan and continue as a vital and necessary professional organization through 2025, 2026, and beyond, the following is required of AEG:

- Close cooperation and coordination between our leadership on both the association and local levels to assure we are providing the best membership value and experience possible to our members,
- The use of all the resources currently available to us, plus ones we may not yet be aware of, to increase our membership numbers and membership involvement,
- Increase our outreach to, and the involvement of, our young members, both students and early career professionals, in all aspects of the organization since they represent the future of the organization and the profession, and
- Look for ways to better position ourselves for variations in the political and corporate environments that may affect our various funding sources, such as membership numbers, sponsorship numbers and amounts, and attendance at events such as meetings, symposia, and webinars.

I expect the coming year to be a busy year, but I'm excited to see all that we can accomplish together. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with concerns, ideas, etc., that you may have that you think would be of value to AEG. I can be reached on my president's email, which is president@aegweb.org.

Sincerely,
Paul M. Weaver, PG

Volunteers Make A Difference

AEG's committees need your support

By Mark Swank, AEG Vice President 2025–26

I am already nearly two months into my year as vice president of AEG, transitioning our roles in September at our annual meeting, this year held in Chicago—one of the best cities in America for certain. AEG's volunteer leadership consists of the Executive Council (EC) (president, vice president/president-elect, treasurer, secretary, and past-president) and the Board of Directors (BOD), which is also comprised of the 11 elected regional directors. Each EC member commits to serving 1 year in each EC position, resulting in a total commitment of five years on the EC, while each regional director commits to at least one term of 3 years.

Our recent years have seen some significant changes culturally and in business operations. As AEG continues to navigate these challenges, such as recouping financial losses via our past business management company and steadying our membership numbers, we are always looking for the next generation of volunteer leadership. Volunteering puts you in the driver's seat for what you want from the association. If you want to get involved, I encourage you to contact me directly at VP@aegweb.org to discuss your ideas, the needs of the association, and where you can make a difference at AEG!

Aside from coordinating biannual town hall meetings, my primary role as vice president includes serving as the liaison between AEG's operational committees and the EC/BOD. AEG's operational committees focus on the betterment of our association for our members and towards the non- (or less) technical aspects of our association, and include:

Communications Committee—Responsible for the publication of *AEG News*, the journal *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience* (a joint publication of AEG and the Geological Society of America), and special publications.

Chapter Support Committee—Coordinates with the leadership of AEG's chapters and assists chapter leadership by sharing information/best practices.

Workforce Development and Support Committee (WDSC)—Provides AEG with ideas, guidance, symposia, etc., to assure that AEG serves all geoprofessionals.

Finance Committee—Keeps tabs on AEG's fiscal health by reviewing financial statements and by providing finance-related recommendations to the EC/BOD.

Governance Committee—Reviews AEG governance documents (bylaws and operating policies) to keep them up-to-date and provides recommendations to the EC/BOD for revisions to bylaws/policies as warranted.

Meetings Advisory Committee—Reviews proposals and makes recommendations to the EC/BOD for future annual meeting locations, and advises planning committees of upcoming annual meetings.

Membership Committee—Makes recommendations for membership renewal/new member outreach, coordinates with the AEG manager for member outreach initiatives, and investigates and performs outreach for the formation of potential new chapters.

Student & Young Professional Support Committee (SYPSC)—Prepares the SYPSC and Early Career Ambassador newsletter, coordinates webinars to prepare for the Association of State Boards of Geology exam, coordinates career panel webinars, coordinates the SYPSC event(s) at the annual meeting, and oversees student travel grants for the annual meeting.

Strategic Initiatives Coordinator(s)—Develops initiatives to assist AEG in meeting its strategic planning.

Licensure Committee—Provides guidance and support in the implementation of AEG's policy on licensure by keeping tabs on potential and/or ongoing threats to professional geoscience licensure across the country, coordinating AEG's response, and developing resources for the advancement of licensure.

K–12 Committee—Generates and oversees the implementation of initiatives for outreach to those in kindergarten through 12th grade.

I am excited and looking forward to yet another year on the EC and encourage all of our members to reach out and be involved! Thank you!

If you want to get involved, I encourage you to contact me directly **to discuss your ideas, the needs of the association, and where you can make a difference at AEG!**

A Message from AEG Headquarters

Shannon Fitzpatrick-O'Shea, Visty Dalal, and Steven Tapanes enjoying the 2025 annual meeting.

As we look back over the past months, our team at AEG Headquarters is filled with gratitude for the remarkable energy, expertise, and commitment of AEG members, committees, and volunteers.

One of the true highlights of the year was connecting with so many of you at the registration desk during AEG's 68th Annual Meeting in Chicago. The conversations about your projects, passions, and what inspires your involvement reminded us that AEG's strength lies in the dedication and curiosity of its members.

We are also proud to celebrate AEG's expanding social media presence. By highlighting member achievements, sharing field experiences, and posting educational resources, engagement has grown across all platforms. These digital connections, though virtual, bring the community closer together and shine a light on the vital work being done by AEG professionals around the world.

Our Headquarters team also led and moderated two virtual days during the Annual Meeting, extending the AEG experience to those unable to attend in person. These sessions fostered meaningful discussions and learning opportunities while saving both time and travel costs—just another example of how AEG continues to evolve and connect in innovative ways!

Behind the scenes, Headquarters supports AEG year-round, organizing webinars, producing *The Insider*, managing publications, and assisting with countless projects large and small. Our role is to ensure every member, volunteer, and leader has the tools and support they need to succeed.

AEG's vitality depends on you. As you continue engaging through committees, social media, upcoming events, and virtual programming, we look forward to getting to know each of you better. Together, your dedication ensures that AEG not only endures but also thrives. We are so proud to be a part of this important work.

Shannon Fitzpatrick-O'Shea, manager@AEGweb.org
Jenn Breitenbach, contact@AEGweb.org
727-940-2658 x 2004

The conversations about your projects, passions, and what inspires your involvement reminded us that AEG's strength lies in the dedication and curiosity of its members.

BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

We are applied geology!

AEG is one of the very few organizations dedicated to supporting applied geology. Members of AEG include geologists specializing in engineering geology, environmental geology, and hydrogeology as well as other professionals in affiliated fields, such as civil and mining engineering, land use planning, public policy and education.

Go beyond just advertising!

- Connect with over 2,000 members online, in person, and through AEG's publications.
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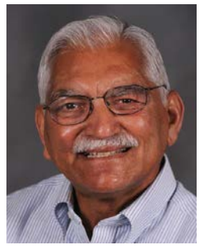


Abdul Shakoor Publication Assistance Award Established

Dr. Abdul Shakoor (left) was surprised at the AEG meeting in Chicago by Dr. Thomas Oommen (middle) and Dr. Brian Greene (right) with the announcement of his eponymous award.

During the Opening Session of the AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago, the AEG Foundation was pleased to announce the establishment of the Abdul Shakoor Publication Award. The award was established in recognition of the huge debt of gratitude the association owes Dr. Shakoor for his remarkable 25-year tenure as AEG editor of the *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience (E&EG)* journal following his 5 years as editor of *AEG News*. Dr. Shakoor was a strong advocate for students, encouraging them to attend AEG meetings and to publish in the *E&EG* journal.

The effort to establish the new award was led by Dr. Brian Greene, a former student of Dr. Shakoor, and Dr. Thomas Oommen, current AEG editor of the *E&EG* journal. According to Brian, "this was a brainstorm that Thomas and I had at the AEG meeting in Philadelphia to help defray the $750 cost for students to publish their research in the *E&EG* journal. Students just can't afford that kind of money. This new scholarship was a surprise to everyone other than the AEG Foundation members who approved it, and even Abdul did not know of it. Was he surprised!"

The award is intended to offset the cost of a student's $750 open access fee to publish in the *E&EG* journal so as to maximize the visibility, impact, and accessibility of their work and to help build their research identity. Initial funding for the award is provided as a subaccount within the Foundation's Legget Fund. The Foundation encourages donations as a separate contribution by AEG members, Dr. Shakoor's former students, and their current employers.

AEG Foundation 2026 scholarship applications are now open and due by January 15, 2026. **For more information, visit aegfoundation.org/.**

Lemke Scholarships Awarded

The 2026 student scholarships application window is open: applications due January 15, 2026. Every year, the AEG Foundation awards scholarships—ranging from $500 to $5,000—to environmental and engineering geology students across the United States. Eleven unique scholarship funds support graduate and undergraduate students to achieve their academic goals, conduct research, and attend field camp. For more information and to apply, create an account and login to the AEG Foundation scholarship portal at applications.aegfoundation.org/scholarships.

Congratulations to the 2025 Lemke Scholarship and Travel Grant recipients, awarded at the AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago. Established in 2007, the AEG Foundation Lemke Scholarship Fund honors the memory of Richard (Dick) W. (1913–2003) and June T. (1919–2005) Lemke. Dick enjoyed a long and active career with the USGS; he was president of AEG in 1970, and in 1980 became an honorary member, the highest and most prestigious honor bestowed upon those with exemplary careers and exceptional leadership and integrity. To help students attend and experience the AEG Annual Meeting, Lemke Scholarships and Travel Grants are awarded to students who are sole or first author of an abstract or poster that they personally present at the meeting. Finalists are recommended by the Lemke Scholarship Fund Selection Committee and approved by the AEG Foundation Board of Directors. All students who present an abstract or poster are considered for the awards.

Members of the AEG Foundation Board of Directors and Lemke Scholarship Fund Selection Committee present awards to two of this year's student presenters at the AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago. From left to right: AEG Foundation directors Julien Waeber and Matt Brunengo, 2025 Lemke Scholarship winners Anjali Thota and Jack Nulisch, and Selection Committee members Briget Doyle and Greg Hempen.

2025 Lemke Scholarship Winners ($500)

Elise Chan, Colorado School of Mines
Jack Nulisch, Northwestern University
Olajide Oladipo, University of Georgia
Isaac Pope, Missouri University of Science and Technology
Asher Staubach, University of Mississippi
Ann Thomas, Northwestern University
Anjali Thota, Northwestern University
Taylor Trudell, University of Missouri-Kansas City

2025 Lemke Travel Grant Winners ($300)

Noah Bezanson, Colorado School of Mines
Lauren Guido, Colorado School of Mines
Jagadeesh Janga, University of Illinois Chicago
Naghmeh Mehraeen, Northwestern University
Banuchandra Nagaraja, Northwestern University
Huston Spellman, University of Missouri-Columbia

In Memoriam: William (Bill) Smith

Dr. William (Bill) K. Smith, PG, PE, passed away on October 27, 2025, after an illness prevented him from joining us at the AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago. Bill served on the AEG Foundation Board of Directors, including terms as treasurer and secretary. After serving on the Board, Bill continued to volunteer as a member and chair of the Lemke Scholarship Selection Committee. Bill was awarded the AEG Floyd T. Johnson Service Award in 2012 for outstanding active and faithful service to the Association. Bill will be deeply missed.

Friends and I (right) on top of the Nugget Sandstone at Dallas Dome, Wyoming.

My Experience at Branson Field Camp

By Huston Spellman

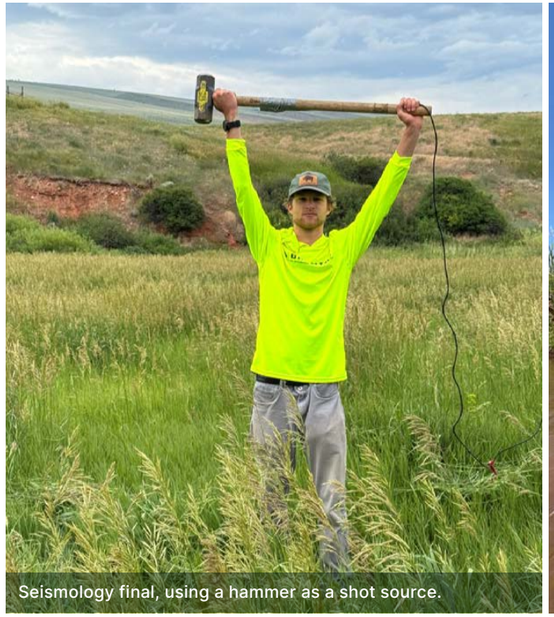
Thanks to the generosity of the Bearsley-Kuper Field Camp Scholarship, I was able to attend the University of Missouri's Branson Field Camp in Lander, Wyoming. I am currently a geology major at the University of Missouri–Columbia entering my senior year. With aspirations to continue into a geology career after graduation, this experience has been extremely inspiring and valuable. I learned many geological field methods, overcame challenges, and built lifelong connections.

Upon arriving, I was amazed by the beauty of the setting. The camp sat at 6,000 feet elevation in a beautiful U-shaped canyon in the Wind River Range. Campus was an island, isolated by a fork of the Popo Agie River, with an abundance of wildflowers and wildlife. The camp had over a hundred years of history, which was told by the rustic cabins and large collections of rocks I had never seen before. My phone had no service, and I was glad to experience camp like students of the past. The staff and fellow students were very kind, and I greatly looked forward to the weeks to come.

Week one of field camp was a perfect introduction to the following five weeks of content. We started with the basics—strike and dip, how to sight with a Brunton, calculating our pace, and many tools that would help us with later projects. We were assigned short group projects to get ourselves oriented in unfamiliar methodology. One of the challenges of group projects was determining how to work as a team while utilizing our individual strengths. A certain amount of patience, trust, and individual work was required to meet deadlines. These were valuable skills that I continued to improve on as many more group projects were assigned.

Following the introduction to basic skills, we moved on to regional stratigraphy. We applied many classroom concepts on real outcrops and determined formation boundaries in the field. We described facies within formations, determined depositional environments, identified sedimentary structures, and created a stratigraphic column from those findings. Completing this as a group project greatly challenged my communication and coordination skills. As student geologists, many of us had different interpretations of our field observations. We had to determine what discussions were important to maintain consistency, divide tasks fairly, and not dwell on topics for too long to meet our deadlines. We also had to work around people's schedules. Some students were also kitchen staff and needed to leave early to prepare dinner. These challenges were extremely valuable to overcome because of their similarity to a real professional setting.

The most challenging portion of field camp was our geological mapping assignments. With little to no experience mapping among the student body, it was an entirely new skill we were tasked to develop. We had the tools necessary to complete our assignments, but it was ultimately a matter of using them together at such a scale. One notable experience was the 4-day project mapping a doubly plunging anticline dubbed Derby Dome. The map area was 3 square miles and contained a notable amount of structural complexity. The first day in the field consisted of much frustration, scratching of heads, and hopeless confusion. Any confidence of understanding was almost immediately squashed by the discovery of repeating, overturned, or oddly folded units. These feelings were quickly reversed on the third day of field mapping. I almost can't describe the excitement, relief, and confidence I felt when it finally all clicked: a curved thrust fault across the whole map. This theory explained everything. As I recall the moments of frustration, I can



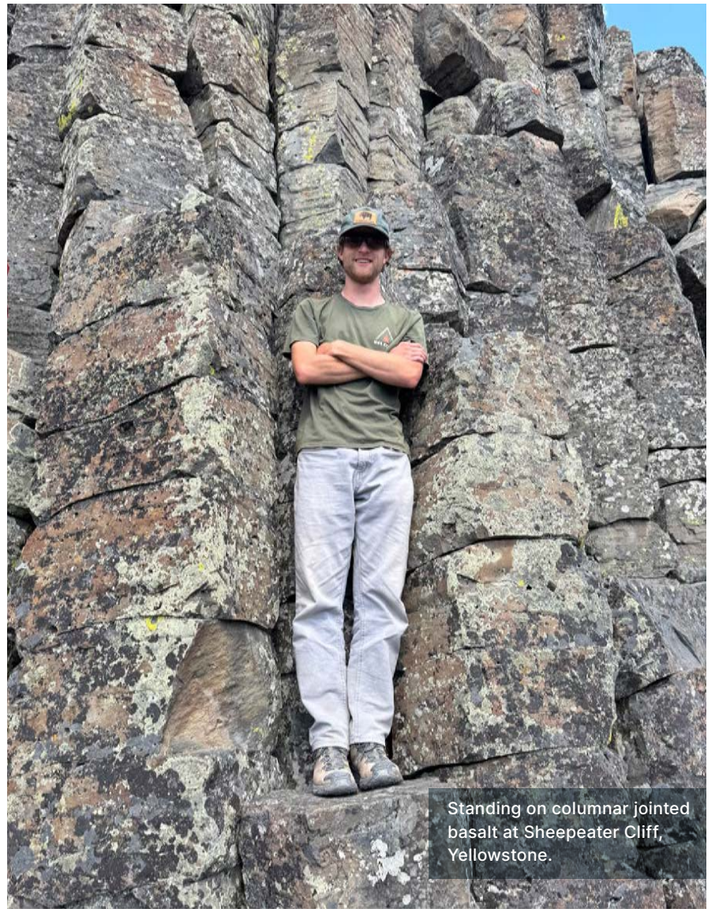
Seismology final, using a hammer as a shot source.

confidently say I am extremely thankful for the experience. Overcoming this challenge, putting all the pieces together, and doing so with no assistance from professors was nothing but inspiring. This was the first time I truly felt like a geologist.

The next few weeks at the field camp were relatively relaxed. We got to go on a regional geology field trip to Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and a scenic drive through remnants of the Pinedale glaciation locality. On this trip, I really got to appreciate the immense beauty of the geology and the importance of protecting it for future generations. It was extremely rewarding to be with students who had never seen these places before and see their amazement.

After the field trip, we dove into our final projects. I got to sample three different specializations within geology including hydrology, seismology, and basin analysis. The professors who taught were all professionals in the workforce, and it was very helpful to hear their new perspectives. For my final project I chose geophysics. I got to complete seismic reflection and refraction projects as well as an electric resistivity tomography project. Learning these new techniques expanded my knowledge of what tools are out there and available to use.

An important part of my experience at field camp I would like to mention was the connection made with the people there. Without cellphone service, we had to find new ways to entertain ourselves. This really forced students to talk to one another or share an experience together. We played many games of hacky sack, horseshoe, and corn hole. We had many laughs at the river when jumping in after a hot day in the field. I made some friends that I will remember for the rest of my life, and I will be sure to say hi when I see them at AEG and the Geological Society of America (GSA) meetings.



Standing on columnar jointed basalt at Sheepeater Cliff, Yellowstone.

Attending Branson Field Camp was a transformative experience, both personally and professionally. It challenged me in ways that strengthened my skills, deepened my passion for geology, and affirmed my commitment to a career in the geosciences. I am incredibly grateful to the Bearsley-Kuper Geology Field Camp Scholarship for making this opportunity possible. The knowledge I gained, the relationships I built, and the memories I made will stay with me for the rest of my life. Field camp has given me the confidence to move forward as a geologist, and I look forward to applying everything I've learned in both graduate studies and my future career.

My Field Camp Experience

By Michael Poon

I took Indiana University's (IU's) geology field camp course, which was titled, "Field Geology in the Rocky Mountains." It is situated in southwestern Montana, abutting the Tobacco Root Mountains, formed by the Tobacco Root Pluton. This area was specifically chosen by IUGFS (IU Geologic Field Station) founder Charles Deiss for its fantastically varied geology, both in lithology and structure. I saw and mapped more than 24 rock units, including sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks that span a vast geologic time span from the Archean to the Miocene. There are truly too many lithologies to name in all, but the most interesting to me were the quartzofeldspathic gneiss, cross-bedded pink arenite sandstone with glauconite, fossiliferous limestones, thinly bedded intraclastic limestone, bedded chert, and lahar deposit with angiosperm fossils. In the classroom building, there is a quote from the legendary retired IUGFS instructor Lee Suttner: "The best geologists are those that have seen the most rocks." By this metric, I certainly became a better geologist by several fold over the course of the camp!

In addition to a varied stratigraphy, the structural history of our study area was very complex. The region is an overlapping of three major North American structural styles: Laramide, Sevier, and Basin and Range Extension. The overprinting of so many tectonic events can make for some pretty head-scratching geology. We mapped regular and overturned plunging synclines/anticlines, Laramide basement-involved thrust faults, en echelon thrust faults, reactivated normal faults, igneous intrusions, and probably other things besides. Much emphasis was placed on mapping during the course, and we made several geologic maps (with cross sections, of course), the largest of which, the final project, was about 100 square kilometers (or roughly 40 square miles) in size!

Having a high vantage point helps when drawing contacts.

We also got to see many interesting sites to further our learning. On the caravan to Montana from Indiana, we saw Badlands National

Park, which was the first of several National Parks we visited. The others we went to were Yellowstone, Glacier, and Grand Teton National Parks. On our way to or from the parks, we stopped at the Beartooth Pass, Earthquake Lake National Monument, Thermopolis Hot Springs State Park, and the Sun River Canyon of Lewis and Clark National Forest. I also visited a few Superfund sites, including Butte's infamous Berkeley Pit, which is a large, flooded open pit copper mine laden with heavy metals. My favorite of all the places I visited is probably Glacier National Park, which has a stunning landscape unlike any I had seen before. The relief from the top of ridges to the bottom of the U-shaped valleys was about a mile in many places. I should also mention all of the different animals I saw on my adventures: pelicans; hawks; ground squirrels; chipmunks; a hoary marmot; prairie dogs; whitetail, mule, and pronghorn deer; elk; bison; a bighorn sheep; mountain goats; rattlesnakes; and a bear cub.

I chose to do the environmental geology and surface hydrology subdiscipline, which was essentially a week-long course-within-a-course. I took water chemistry measurements, collected soil samples, and wrote abbreviated versions of phase I and phase II EPA reports. Our subject of the reports was a mid- to late-19th century to early 20th century copper and gold porphyry mine that was abandoned long ago. The main contaminant of concern was lead from the galena that was reported to exist in much of the ore. It was enlightening to see what goes into environmental site investigations and documentation.

As for the experience of what it was like to take the course—it was wonderful but also highly arduous and stressful at times. Day after day of steep uphill hiking and getting back only to have work on the map

Standing on the contact between the Jurassic Rierdon and Swift Formations.

in the evening was certainly wearing me down. Despite all of this, the experience was definitely a positive one. When you are on top of the mountain, looking upon the landscape, it is hard not to be grateful for the privilege to be in such a beautiful place and look at great geology. Seeing and touching some of the geologic concepts and lithologies that had once just been a slide in a PowerPoint, lab exercise, or a diagram in a book was very gratifying.

I learned quite a few lessons during time at field camp. One of the most important I learned is to value your time as a resource and use it wisely. There were times when I got stuck on an outcrop for too long, and it forced me to rush through the rest of the traverse faster than was optimal. There were also times when I did not spend enough time working on the map and paid for it when it came due. One of the skills that I improved significantly was my field note-taking. I must have written two dozen or more pages of notes in total. The importance of good note-taking was learned firsthand whenever I took poor notes; I'm sure you field geologists out there can relate to some of my thoughts upon reviewing them a few days later: "What was I talking about here? Where even was this? Why did I write this down?" Thinking in three or even four dimensions is another skill that I improved after this camp. Trying to picture the subsurface in your head and moving your hands around in funny ways to visualize stuff are important skills for geologists. The last two major things I learned seem trivial but can be very important in the field. The first is to always check that you didn't leave anything

important behind when you are moving on to a new stop; let's just say I learned this the hard way more than once. The second is to always wear footwear if you are going to walk in a stream. I learned secondhand that it can be a very painful mistake to walk barefoot in a stream (don't pollute glass by a stream, folks!). Oh, and keep an eye/ear out for rattlesnakes!

The thing I enjoyed and miss most about field camp was the camaraderie. Every mountain to climb, every rainy day, every long report, every tight deadline—we all did it together. This year really was a wonderful cohort of young geologists who joked together, laughed together, played together, got rained on together, suffered together, complained together, and persevered together. I met many people who I hope shall remain lifelong friends and good acquaintances.

I am grateful for the members of AEG and the Beardsley-Kuper family for their financial assistance to make this great experience possible. Thank you for helping out the next generation of geologists!

Stopping by the magnificent Grand Tetons on the way to Yellowstone National Park.

What do you want to see featured in *AEG News*?

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Heebner measuring the stratigraphy via jaking in order to create a detailed strat column near Darlington, Idaho.

My ISU Field Camp Experience

By Michael Tiago Heebner

I initially arrived at the Idaho State University (ISU) field camp, located within the Lost River Range (near Mackay, Idaho) and extending to field areas as far away as the Pioneer Range (located within central Idaho), feeling quite nervous and unsure of what my experience would be like. I questioned if I would meet expectations, both academically and physically. I questioned if I would get along with my fellow field campers. I questioned if I even deserved to be there, as this momentous course is the pinnacle of what I had been working towards throughout the entirety of my undergraduate experience.

The first week of this course contained a steep learning curve, and my assignments that week were not entirely complete or to the quality I felt that I was capable of. This reality was a tough pill to swallow, as I questioned how students were expected to finish their assignments within the accelerated nature of a field camp course. Even though I felt inadequate, I still had a great time completing the sedimentation-stratigraphy themed assignments. This set the stage for the flavor of hiking we would be experiencing and what a field geologist might be expected to do in a real-world setting for a company. I also collected a variety of Mississippian and Pennsylvanian fossils, including rugose corals and crinoids, as we mapped.

By the second week I was completing assignments on time with decent quality. The theme of week two was geomorphology, and our assignments focused on mapping river terraces and rock falls. I had never done surficial mapping in the field before, so it was an interesting task, and I am grateful to have experienced this flavor of mapping. This was the week where I started to know my peers on a more personal level and started to develop my friendships for the summer.

The third week is when I finally started to feel confident in the quality of my assignments and mapping capabilities. The

[LEFT] Taking the strike, dip, trend, and plunge measurements of a prominent fault surface in Banana Canyon within the Challis region of SE Idaho. [RIGHT] Getting familiar with the basaltic features at Craters of the Moon near Arco, Idaho.

theme was volcanology, and our assignments were primarily focused on the ash, lahar, and lava flow deposits of the Trans-Challis volcanics that occurred around 53–52 Ma. As a reward for our hard work, the last assignment of the week was a day mapping the lava flow directions found at Craters of the Moon (near Arco, Idaho). To celebrate the end of this week, we also threw a volcano dance party to let off some steam and to acknowledge how much effort everyone (instructors and teaching assistants included) had put into this course.

The fourth week was somewhat experimental, as the field area for the first half of the week was on the Empire Mine property in Mackay, Idaho, where we were tasked with mapping skarn deposits on a 1:3,000 scale as opposed to the usual 1:12,000 scale. This was an interesting style of mapping, as the deposits created a ribbon-like pattern on the map based on outcrops. The skarn deposits also featured an outcrop of magnetite, which was phenomenal to see in the field as I had only seen it in the lab. Later that week we returned to the Challis volcanics with a purely structural focus in the field area, Banana Canyon. This was the most challenging field area for me, as structural geology is one of my weaker subjects, but I still love it. Regardless, my field partner and I were able to produce a map that was similar to the field camp director's map. It should also be mentioned that the last day of mapping in Banana Canyon was the one time that we experienced precipitation of snow.

The fifth week was all one field area, Boulder Creek, in which we were allotted five field days to

> Field camp is a rite of passage, a boot camp of sorts for budding geologists, and **an experience of life lessons that you will hold dear to your heart until the day you pass from this world.**

thoroughly map the region. This was necessary as the field area was considerably forested, and just to reach the field area we needed to cross an icy river on foot and hike about 2 miles upslope. The theme was metamorphic and igneous petrology, where we encountered diorite, granite, a homogeneous gneiss, a heterogeneous gneiss with four or five different facies, and a knob of pyroxenite. Encountering pyroxenite in the field was amazing, as it is a rarer rock to encounter, and I had only ever seen it in the lab. This field area also contained a snow bridge that we had to cross to be efficient during our field time. This was a fun relief during the hotter part of the day, and when eating lunch some of us would make snow people (~3–4 inches tall).

On the last day of field camp, we all felt like actual geologists when turning in our final assignments in the morning, and then proceeded to have fun the rest of the day. We also signed each other's field books with notes of joy and sadness as we knew that everyone would be going their separate ways in the morning. We played a game of baseball in the afternoon, had a BBQ picnic dinner with mock awards for all of the students based on their actions throughout the course, and ended the night with a dance party. The next morning everyone made an effort to clean up the field station quickly so that everyone could start their journeys home.

I may have entered field camp as a nervous, anxiety-ridden student, but I left field camp with the friends and experiences of a lifetime that I will look back on for decades to come. Field camp is not just a course you take to check off a box on your degree requirements. Field camp is a rite of passage, a boot camp of sorts for budding geologists, and an experience of life lessons that you will hold dear to your heart until the day you pass from this world. To all future field campers: enjoy these weeks of camp that you may fear, for you will never be the same when you leave this place and you will think fondly of your time here for the rest of your life.

Taking measurements with a standard Brunton compass of a kinematically complex "cave" in the Boulder Creek region.

I would like to express my endless gratitude to the AEG Foundation and donors for the Beardsley-Kuper Geology Field Camp Scholarship, as I would not have been able to enjoy this experience otherwise. Their support has left me a blooming geologist who did not have to worry about the cost of field camp during this experience. Thank you.

AEG Volunteer Spotlight—Mariam Sani

Mariam Sani, affiliated with the St. Louis Chapter, is a geologist from Ghana who has been actively volunteering with AEG since 2024. After finishing a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, Mariam moved to the United States in pursuit of higher education. She achieved a Master of Science in Environmental Sciences from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) in May 2025, earning recognition as an outstanding environmental sciences graduate student in 2024. While at SIUE, Mariam presented posters at the 2024 and 2025 Illinois State Academy of Science (ISAS) Conference and the Geological Society of America (GSA) Section Meeting in 2024. She won poster awards at the GSA section meeting and the 2025 ISAS conference for her poster "Science-interested Undergraduates' Perceptions of the Geosciences as a Career."

Mariam has gained experience in a variety of geological engineering and environmental science roles. In Ghana, she gained experience in borehole oversight, soil logging, well design, and pump tests. She also worked for the Department of Urban Roads in Kumasi, tests on construction materials and preparing technical reports. While at SIUE, she held an environmental science internship where she prepared technical documents, assisted in setting up site access agreements, implemented air monitoring, and coordinated community meetings and outreach campaigns.

Remarking on her experiences as a student volunteer at AEG's 2024 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia and 2025 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Mariam says the meetings were "an amazing place for her to meet and connect with professionals" and provided "a learning space that has helped her keep up with the various tasks that geologists perform in a world that only sees us looking at rocks." Luke Ducey, who was paired with Mariam through the mentoring program at the 2024 annual meeting, says that their conversations at the meeting evolved into a monthly routine of meeting to discuss "career growth, life experiences, and the unique opportunities that AEG provides for young professionals."

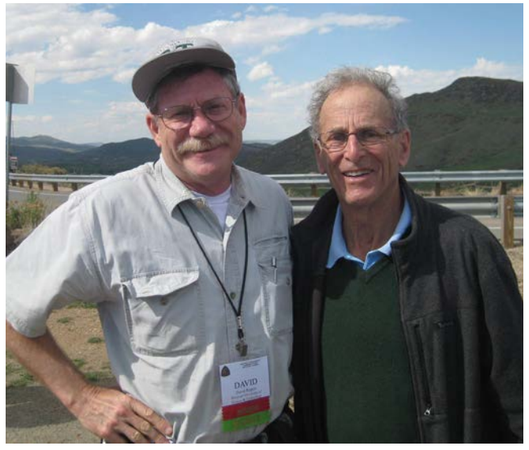
Mariam is currently studying to take the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Professional Geologist test, and she started working for a private environmental consulting firm in March 2025. Luke added that "what stands out about Mariam is her commitment to making the most of AEG's volunteer opportunities. She actively participated in meetings and events, building relationships that helped her transition into a full-time environmental role at EDI after graduation." In addition to her time volunteering for AEG's St. Louis Chapter, Mariam is also an active member of the AEG Workforce Development & Support Committee.

She looks forward to a career as an engineering geologist and hopes to incorporate environmental sustainability and geoscience awareness into her practice. While discussing their mentoring experience, Luke concluded that "Mariam's journey is a testament to the power of volunteering and networking within AEG. Her story highlights how engagement in the organization can open doors, create lasting relationships, and inspire others to get involved."

IN MEMORIAM

J. David Rogers 1954–2025

By Greg Hempen



Dr. Rogers and the late Dr. Richard "Dick" Goodman, both Honorary Members of AEG who passed this year.

Dr. J. David Rogers passed away on August 23, 2025, surrounded by his family and prepared to meet his Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. A popular retired Missouri University of Science and Technology (MS&T) professor, David will be remembered for his love of teaching, his wide range of interests and knowledge, as well as his endearing sense of humor.

Born in West Covina, California, on May 16, 1954, Jonathan David Rogers was the third son of Dallas and Betty Rogers, and one of a few "Jonathans" born at the hospital around the same time. After a couple of days of being called "David" to differentiate him from the rest of the newborns, the name just stuck. Older brothers Robert and Brian often reflect that, despite being the youngest, David was a natural leader, and charismatic enough to convince his easygoing older brothers to do the things he wanted to do. David was an Eagle Scout, a multisport high school athlete, and his myriad interests ranged from stamp collecting to scale model-building to mountain climbing.

At age 16, David had created a "life list" of adventures to undertake, none of which included formal postsecondary education. He wanted to scale mountains, fly airplanes, and visit famous places. However, once David found his passion in earth sciences at Mt. San Antonio Community College, he was off and running (and climbing and rafting). He earned a BS in Geology from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona (1976), followed by an MS in Civil Engineering (1979), and ultimately a PhD (1982) in geological engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.

David was a registered civil engineer, engineering geologist, and hydrogeologist, and was recognized for his achievements in these disciplines with several AEG awards including the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer in Engineering Geology Award (1996), the Karl and Ruth Terzaghi Mentor Award (2016), and the Schuster Medal (2022). This year David was elected an AEG Honorary Member, and in July, former AEG President and Honorary Member Greg Hempen was able to personally inform David of the award, which was presented posthumously at AEG's Annual Meeting in Chicago. David was also a fellow of the Geological Society of America and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Shortly after completing his PhD at Cal, David married Katrinka Guy, and they settled in nearby Pleasant Hill to raise their growing family, with daughters Beckie and Christie and son Jonathan. During the 1980s and 90s, David owned geotechnical consulting firms with offices in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles. He was frequently the invited speaker at professional associations and conventions, and his reanalysis of the Saint Francis Dam disaster led to a lecture tour across the country with the entire family accompanying him in the minivan.

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION | IN MEMORIAM

David was also valued outside the classroom, **as students from around the world sought his advice on both their studies and their personal lives.** During his time in academia, he continued to consult on large geotechnical projects, from the New Orleans levee failures to the Montecito, California, debris flow.

David also served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, a role that leveraged his technical skills and his deep appreciation of military history. Lieutenant Commander Rogers relished his adventures in the Navy. He developed intelligence training courses, briefed aircrews across the Pacific Ocean and South America, and became a qualified Naval Observer in the P-3C Orion. David's nearly photographic memory served him well as a Navy analyst, and he was a highly sought-after instructor.

In the mid-1990s, David left the U.S. Navy Reserve to teach courses at UC Berkeley in engineering and environmental geology for civil engineers and planners. He also welcomed another daughter, Julianna. His love of teaching expanded to homeschooling all of his own children and, at the close of the decade, David felt called to teaching full-time.

In 2001, David accepted the Karl F. Hasselmann Chair of Geological Engineering at the University of Missouri at Rolla (now Missouri S&T). One year later, his youngest son, Daniel, was born in Rolla. In addition to his appointment in the Department of Geosciences and Geological and Petroleum Engineering at MS&T, David managed the master's degree program in Military Geological Engineering for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and created a series of online engineering courses for MS&T. Once again, David's wide range of interests and experiences made his courses popular and engaging. David was also valued outside the classroom, as students from around the world sought his advice on both their studies and their personal lives. During his time in academia, he continued to consult on large geotechnical projects, from the New Orleans levee failures to the Montecito, California, debris flow.

David was a consummate storyteller in and out of the classroom. He appeared in several television documentaries on geological and man-made engineering disasters over the past thirty years, most recently the Fox series "American Built." Many of us have turned on the television to see a familiar face illuminating subjects such as the history of the California Aqueduct system or the building of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

David is survived by his wife of 43 years, Katrinka Rogers; daughters Beckie Cramer (Clarke), Christie Rogers (Jeff Nuzzi), Julianna Waldvogel (Jeremie); sons Jonathan (Hannah) and Daniel; grandsons Oliver and Owen Cramer, brothers Robert and Brian, and numerous beloved in-laws and extended family members across the country. He ultimately accomplished most of the things on his "life list," sharing his amazing experiences with his family, colleagues, and students!

In honor of David's outstanding contributions to MS&T and to the thousands of students who both enjoyed and benefited from his mentorship, the J. David Rogers Scholarship has been established to support students in geological engineering who embody his spirit of curiosity, engagement, and generosity. The scholarship will recognize not only academic achievement but also active involvement in fieldwork, professional growth, and the life of the program.

To donate to this scholarship, please follow this link: https://bit.ly/4hXqQFN

Industry professionals, we salute you!

Perspective on AEG and an invitation for submissions

By Isaac E. Pope, Communications Committee Co-chair and *E&EG* Book Review Editor

Communications Co-chair Isaac Pope accepting the Douglas R. Piteau Outstanding Young Member Award at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Many professional societies often have an almost academic bent, and those of us in academia find participating in them crucial for advancement in our careers. With the need to "publish or perish" and wrack up volunteer positions, academics have strong incentives to become involved in this wider intellectual community, especially in some of the major national or international organizations. For industry professionals, however, these sorts of incentives are often nonexistent. Publishing isn't a requirement, and another volunteer assignment probably won't increase their salary anytime soon. This then makes one wonder: how do organizations like AEG, a community of academics and industry professionals working hand-in-hand, come about?

For many of us, the answer is that we truly love our profession. Some of us grew up with a fascination of all things engineering and earth science, while others us of found it later in college or elsewhere in life. All of us, however, see how fundamental our profession is to the welfare of our society. Earthquakes, debris flows, and contaminated groundwater are but a few of the hazards we deal with to safeguard our communities. Amidst all the chaos we see in our modern world, we see how we can help bring some order to the chaos, lend a helping hand to those in need, and save lives.

What do our members see in AEG? For one, they understand that safeguarding a society requires a community of well-trained and well-connected professionals. No one can work in isolation, and this is more true nowhere than in the highly interdisciplinary fields AEG members work. AEG members also understand that there is no replacement for real-world experience. You can only get so much from a college class, but AEG helps open pathways to seeing our academic principles applied in the real world. AEG offers firsthand experience through its field trips at the annual meetings and a wealth of accumulated industry experience through its Cities of the World project, special publications, webinars, and outlets like *AEG News* and *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience*. Being part of the AEG community also grants you networking opportunities to meet professionals tackling similar engineering challenges you might encounter through your career.

What about the academics? True, publish or perish remains an important reason for remaining active in AEG, but I submit that for many of us it stems from the desire to see our work make more of a difference than a journal cover. We could spend our days teasing out the intricate details of geologic processes, but what point is there if it is never used to benefit society? AEG represents one of the best communities to unite academics and industry professionals in the shared calling to serve our communities.

So why do AEG members engage in this community? True, many industry professionals (or academics for that matter) may not see any significant bonuses to their paycheck at the end of the day through participation, but they realize that AEG represents something far greater. It is a community of trained professionals protecting our civilization. Together, we share a common calling and tackle some of the most highly interdisciplinary challenges facing society. Engaging in the AEG community will surround you with individuals who bring a wealth of experience that can help you tackle your own projects, develop better designs, and bring in more clients. Just as you can enrich your own knowledge through the articles published in *AEG News* and *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience*, you can give back by publishing your experience, sharing your knowledge with this community, and establishing yourself as a leader amongst your peers and the individuals you serve.

Together, we share a common calling and tackle some of the most highly interdisciplinary challenges facing society. Engaging in the AEG community will surround you with individuals who bring a wealth of experience that can **help you tackle your own projects, develop better designs, and bring in more clients.**

Workforce Development and Support Committee

Fostering connections, mentorships, and diversity in AEG **By Minda Moe and Matt Buche, Co-chairs**

The Workforce Development and Support Committee (WDSC) continues to hold monthly meetings to drive ongoing programs for AEG and look for new ways to add value for AEG members. Committee members are also working on new initiatives for AEG, such as developing a field safety toolkit in collaboration with the Student & Young Professional Support Committee and the San Francisco Chapter.

Thank you to everyone who was able to support the WDSC's events at AEG's 2025 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Some annual meeting attendees may have noticed a shortage of pronoun ribbons at this year's conference. Logistical challenges delayed the restock of the "she/her" pronoun ribbons, but they will be offered again at future annual meetings.

Deb Green once again performed the heavy lifting of recruiting speakers and organizing the Diversity Symposium—this year, rebranded as the "[Redacted] Symposium" in light of the ongoing censorship of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts in the United States. The symposium was held on the first full day of the annual meeting, in the afternoon following the Opening Session. Convened in person by Dr. Anna Saindon, the [Redacted] Symposium featured a full slate of nine speakers from consulting and academia, who presented five talks and participated in a panel discussion. The incoming 2025–26 Jahn's Lecturer, Dr. Chris Stohr, presented a talk on promoting nontraditional paths to careers in earth science.

Dr. Yara Haridy of the University of Chicago's Shubin Lab was the keynote speaker at this year's Support Your Peers/Be Yourself Luncheon.

This year's diversity symposium was rebranded to reflect censorship of DEI efforts.

The WDSC also coordinated the speaker for this year's Support Your Peers/Be Yourself Luncheon, the latest step in the evolution of the Women in AEG breakfast/luncheon. This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Yara Haridy, is a paleontological postdoctoral researcher in the Shubin Lab at the University of Chicago. She was the lead author on a May 2025 article in *Nature* on the origin of vertebrate teeth and the evolution of sensory exoskeletons. She is also an accomplished science communicator who, for example, organized a weekly #GuessTheSkull science outreach game on Twitter prior to 2020. At the luncheon, Dr. Haridy reviewed her journey from premed student to paleontologist, her work in Tunisia helping local governments preserve fossils from a burned museum in Gafsa, and her ongoing efforts to increase the visibility of women and people of color in science. The luncheon presentation received rave reviews from attendees. The networking connection for Dr. Haridy originated from AEG's attendance at the 2024 Geological Society of America (GSA) Connects Meeting in Anaheim, California—you never know where a conversation at a conference may lead!

Additionally, the WDSC would like to congratulate this year's Steckel Diversity Scholarship awardee, Abigail Perez Villanueva of Sonoma State University. Next year's scholarship applications are due January 15, 2026. As a reminder, there is also a Steckel Diversity Field Trips Grant offered year-round to fund outdoor education for junior high or high school students. For more details, visit the AEG Foundation's website at https://aegfoundation.org/grant-scholarships/.

GFT's Masai Lawson presented on how investing in leadership and professional development can help grow an engaged and inclusive workforce that can be tapped for the next generation of leaders and serve as a powerful recruiting and retention tool.

Arcadis' Lee Mullin and Minda Moe shared their perspectives on how current legislative challenges and gender-based discrimination are affecting working professionals in the environmental and engineering fields.

Become a Mentor or Protégé in the AEG Mentoring Program!

We are excited to launch the annual AEG Mentoring Program—a new initiative to expand and strengthen our AEG community through inclusive mentorship. Students and professionals from all career stages are welcome! Whether you are new to AEG or considering a career change, participating as a mentor or protégé can lead to new perspectives, opportunities, and connections as you expand your professional network.

What you can expect:

A connection with a mentor or protégé matched to your interests and background

Monthly mentor–protégé meetings over the course of a year

Training sessions on inclusive mentorship, anti-harassment and anti-discrimination, leadership, etc.

Program timeline:

December 2025–January 2026: Open registration period

February 2026: Participant training

March 2026: Match with your mentor or protégé

April 2026: Program kickoff meeting

Register here!

Join us and get connected! Please complete the registration form by January 31, 2026. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Emma O'Hara at eca@aegweb.org.

This program is in collaboration with the Workforce Development and Support Committee and the Student and Young Professional Support Committee.

Membership Committee

Driving AEG's growth by promoting membership, student outreach, and international collaboration
By Dr. Visty Dalal and Steven Tapanes, Co-chairs

AEG's Membership Committee (MemCom) is happy to announce the addition of a new committee member from the St. Louis Chapter, Amber Thrasher, PE, at Rocksmith Geoengineering. She is familiar with the issues associated with recruitment and retention of AEG members in her chapter and will bring valuable information related to their local membership to MemCom. Similarly, MemCom would like to extend invitations to membership coordinators at the other 25 AEG chapters in the country so that MemCom can have a holistic picture of some of the membership issues that affect them.

MemCom's co-chairs, Visty and Steven, were excited to attend the 2025 AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago, where they met several students and young professionals attending the annual meeting for the first time. Students and young professionals were eager to attend and learn from the technical sessions/symposiums, committee meetings, and icebreaker session where they met other professionals and made contacts.

On September 25, 2025, during AEG's annual meeting, MemCom held its first hybrid meeting, which was attended by several members in-person. Several pending issues that MemCom had been working on for over a year were discussed with AEG 2025–26 President Paul Weaver and others. Paul assured everyone that he would place high priority on MemCom's issues and agenda without further delay. MemCom's ongoing projects include a) updating the 2025 membership brochure; b) revising MemCom's portion of the AEG membership survey; and c) updating surveys for the Jahn's Lecturer series, and presidential visits to educational institutions and AEG chapters.

Photos from collaborative session with Japan Society of Engineering Geology.

On October 7 (midnight) and October 8 (early morning), Visty, Cassie Wagner, Hawkins Gagnon, and Todd Loar virtually represented AEG's Dams & Levees Technical Working Group at the joint Japan Society of Engineering Geology (JSEG) and AEG Conference in Sapporo, Japan, which was attended by over 100 Japanese scientists and engineers.

JSEG members have repeatedly attended AEG's annual meetings (Portland, Philadelphia, and Chicago), so this collaborative session was a shot in the arm for both organizations intended to lead not only to increased technical collaboration but also to increases in AEG's international membership.

For further information, please contact Visty at visty.dalal@maryland.gov and Steven at steven.tapanes@dot.nj.gov.

Licensure Committee

Promoting AEG licensure policy, monitoring for legislative threats to professional geologist licensure, and advocating for professional credentialing in the geosciences
By Jim Heller, Co-chair

The Licensure Committee (LC) resumed its duties following a brief hiatus from the preceding year. The LC, which consists of thirteen members, has been conducting monthly meetings since May. Since that time, the LC has elected new co-chairs (Cole Heap and Jim Heller), created a subcommittee to monitor for legislative threats to professional geologist licensure, completed a review and applied updates to the Professional Legislative Support Fund guidelines and application form, and has begun a dialogue with the Florida Association of Professional Geologists (FAPG) to assist in their efforts to counter proposed legislation (Florida HB 991) that seeks to eliminate the Florida Board of Professional Geologists. The LC, working in concert with the Region 8 director, Hawkins Gagnon, contacted AEG members in Florida to bolster support with the FAPG. Additionally, the LC discussed the Geological Society of America's recently published position statement pertaining to professional geologist licensure. This has prompted the LC to revisit the AEG's licensure position statement to see if any revisions are warranted.

IAEG Approves Dams & Levees Commission

AEG Dams & Levees TWG's efforts lead to new IAEG Commission

By Visty Dalal, IAEG Dams & Levees Commission President

At its September 7, 2025, Council meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) approved the formation of the Dams & Levees Commission (DLC) as proposed by AEG's Dams & Levees Technical Working Group (DL-TWG). I had the pleasure of leading the yearlong effort by the DL-TWG to propose a comprehensive mission and goals plan for the creation of an international collaborative and educational effort to foster interaction between professionals and students in the profession on an international platform.

The detailed DLC proposal was resubmitted to the IAEG vice president in July 2025, and in August, IAEG Secretary General Faquan Wu asked me to formally present the proposal to the IAEG Council at their September 7 meeting during the 4th IAEG African Regional Conference. I virtually submitted the brief proposal to the IAEG Council, and at the end of the meeting, the Council requested its voting members to cast their approval, disapproval, or abstention votes. The IAEG Council members voted unanimously to approve the formation of the DLC as IAEG Commission No. 43. To paraphrase IAEG President Dr. Vassilis Marinos, It is high time that such a commission was established, as it is much needed.

The response from attending members of international organizations following the meeting was overwhelmingly positive, with a strong interest in collaborative efforts on dams and levees. Members of the Indian Society of Engineering Geologists (ISEG) contacted the DLC Board with a request to join in the collaborative effort to share their experience from working on over 6,000 dams in India.

At AEG's 2025 Annual Meeting in Chicago, I provided a brief update to the members of the DL-TWG about the development of DLC and its approval by the IAEG Council on September 7. IAEG President Marinos and Secretary General Wu issued a formal announcement of the establishment of the DLC on October 27, 2025. In their announcement, they appointed me as president and Brian Greene as secretary general of the DLC.

Please send any comments or interests to me at visty.dalal@maryland.gov.

To paraphrase IAEG President Dr. Vassilis Marinos, **It is high time that such a commission was established, as it is much needed.**

Thank you for joining us for a fantastic annual meeting in Chicago! We, along with Chris Stohr, Kevin Richards, Bill Rochford, and the Chicago Chapter worked tirelessly for four years to bring the annual meeting to Chicago. Thank you to the field course leaders, symposium chairs, event coordinators, student volunteers, and of course Heather Clark for making this meeting one to remember! This year's meeting highlighted the features that make Chicago an outstanding place to live and work—from geology and infrastructure to Chicago's music and culinary scene, our meeting featured it all! We were lucky to get a full week of sunshine and great weather to enjoy this vibrant city.

We began the week with two virtual days, featuring presentations from speakers across the world. The second virtual day was a dedicated virtual symposium on intraplate tectonics!

AEG also partnered with the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) to host a group of K–14 educators as part of AGI's Geoscience Experiences for Teachers Out in the Field (GET-Out) program.

AEG hosted an afternoon workshop where we discussed maps used by professionals, resources available to use in planning lessons, and Brandon Curry and Chris Stohr presented the geology of the Chicago area with an overview of the McCook Quarry, which the educators visited as part of the Tuesday field course. Many thanks to the AEG Foundation for providing grant funding to keep registration rates affordable for this group of educators.

Tuesday field courses included trips to McCook Quarry and Northerly Island.

FIELD COURSE 1

FIELD COURSE 2

We opened the exhibit hall with the Icebreaker Reception then headed across the street for live music at the House of Blues!

During the Opening Session,

we presented awards to our outstanding AEG Foundation scholars and announced the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award—presented this year to *AEG News* editors Martha Whitney and Bill Roman. We also awarded the Advocacy Award to Kenneth Tramm. We invited IAEG President Vasillis Marinos to provide an update on the latest programs and initiatives that AEG members are invited to participate in as the USA national group. Additionally, Dr. Marinos presented Dr. Scott Burns with the IAEG Honorary President award, in recognition of his outstanding service to IAEG, while representing AEG and the USA. Keynote speaker Dr. Tim Stark talked about the eye-opening problem of landfill fires, and keynote speaker Dr. Thomas Oommen talked about the use of new technologies including AI and the ground surface elevation database that recently became available through Google. After the break, we heard from Kevin Fitzpatrick of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago about the 109 miles of tunnels, vast reservoirs, and other infrastructure comprising Chicago's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, which received the Outstanding Environmental & Engineering Geology Project (OEEG) Award. Our outgoing Jahns Lecturer Dr. John Kemeny talked about rock mechanics and introduced the incoming lecturer for 2026, Dr. Chris Stohr.










Dr. Stohr is available for in-person and virtual lectures on the following topics:

Retrospective of the Earthline Hazardous-Waste Landfill Failure, a Case Study of Legacy Landfills and Dumps and How to Reduce Leachate

Protecting Groundwater Quality Through Improved Landfill Field Inspections and Records for Maintenance Using Freely-Available Imagery

Navigating a Career in Environmental and Engineering Geology—Make a Living and a Difference to Heal a Hurting Planet

Outcrop Measurements in Glacial Materials for Geo-Engineering and Hydrogeology Using Close Range Photogrammetry, Image Processing, and Terrestrial LiDAR Scanning, Which Became a Focus for Groundwater Protection

Detailed Image Interpretation of Thermal IR, Orthophotography, and LiDAR Imagery for GIS-based Tracking of Features of Interest on Legacy Landfill Covers

A Collection of Short Case Studies from Around the World—Including Landslides, Groundwater, Gas Storage, CO_2 Monitoring, and Geoscience in Politics

TO SCHEDULE A LECTURE, contact Dr. Stohr at chair.aeg.chicago@gmail.com

The Special Event on Wednesday featured an architectural cruise on the Chicago River. Participants feasted on Chicago's famous deep-dish pizza and beverages and enjoyed music from a playlist featuring Chicago-based artists curated by Co-chair Sarah Kalika.

Thursday was a busy day with technical sessions and an amazing Support Your Peers/Be Yourself Luncheon hosted by the Workforce Development and Support Committee. The luncheon featured an incredible discussion by Dr. Tara Haridy of the University of Chicago's Shubin Lab on paleontology, the importance of science communication to the public, and many ideas on how to support geoscience. That afternoon, we mingled with poster authors, including several posters authored by high school students, and awarded the top three outstanding posters, based on attendee votes, with cash prizes!

Thursday night featured an outstanding awards banquet, which was the most heartfelt and touching event we have experienced in our collective AEG memory. The young and talented Isaac Pope was presented with the well-deserved Douglas Piteau Young Member Award. The Terzaghi Mentor Award was presented to Chicago-area professor and researcher Dr. Andrew Stumpf, who is an outstanding representative of the legacy of mentorship provided by Karl and Ruth Terzaghi. Dr. Stumpf then introduced Dr. Chris Stohr as the incoming AEG/Geological Society of America (GSA) Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer. There was not a dry eye in the house during presentations honoring Dr. Anna Saindon with the Floyd T. Johnston Outstanding Service Award, the posthumous Honorary Member Award to Dr. J. David Rogers, and honorary member to our dear friend and 50-year member Oliver Barker. Additionally, Oliver presented the Claire P. Holdredge Award to his mentor and fellow South African Dr. Frank Netterberg. We additionally acknowledged Schuster Medalist Michael Porter, who received his award earlier in the week during the Canadian Geotechnical Society's (CGS) awards ceremony. The evening ended with the introduction and warm welcome to incoming AEG President Paul Weaver.

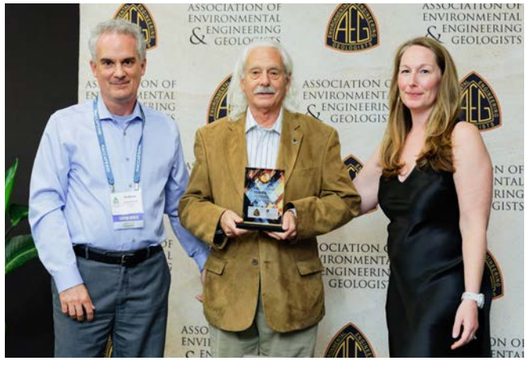
2025 AEG AWARDS

Honorary Member *(Posthumous) / J. David Rogers (presented by Greg Hempen)*

Honorary Member / *Oliver Barker (presented by Eldon Gaith and Renee Wawczak)*

Floyd T. Johnston Service Award / *Anna Saindon (presented by Sarah Kalika and Renee Wawczak)*

Douglas R. Piteau Outstanding Young Member Award / *Isaac Pope (presented by Bill Godwin and Renee Wawczak)*



Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer in Engineering Geology Award / *Dr. Chris Stohr (presented by Andrew Stumpf and Renee Wawczak)*

Claire P. Holdredge Award / *Oliver Barker accepting on behalf of Frank Netterberg (presented by Renee Wawczak)*

Karl & Ruth Terzaghi Mentor Award / *Dr. Andrew Stumpf (presented by Chris Stohr, Jean Bogner, and Renee Wawczak*

Outstanding Journal Reviewer Award / *Gerry Stirewalt (presented by Thomas Oommen, coeditor of Environmental & Engineering Geoscience)*

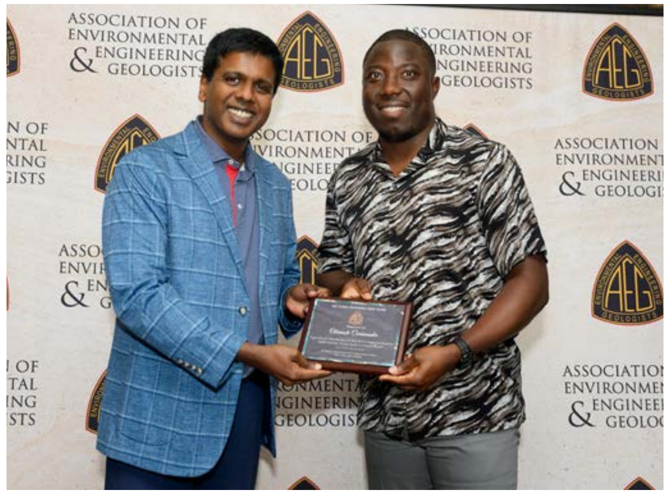
Advocacy Award / *Kenneth Tramm (presented by Renee Wawczak)*

Outstanding Environmental & Engineering Geology Project Award / *Kevin Fitzpatrick accepting on behalf of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (presented by Renee Wawczak)*

At the AEG 2025 Annual Conference, I was able to meet with phenomenally inspiring scientists. … **It is always eye-opening to get out of the office and hear about active research and innovations happening in the academic sphere.**

—CLAIRE THOMASSEN, PROJECT 1 CONSULTANT, BBJ GROUP

2025 AEG AWARDS



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA®

Agricultural Contribution of Chloride to a Saturated Riparian Buffer System: A Case Study in Central Illinois

OKIEMUTE COMMANDER
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Key Terms: *Anthropogenic Chloride, Potassium Chloride Fertilizer, Streams, Groundwater, Subsurface Drainage*

ABSTRACT

Increases in chloride concentrations in surface water and groundwater from anthropogenic sources is a growing concern throughout the world. In the midwestern United States, the agriculture contribution of chloride may elevate concentrations in surface and groundwater systems. A saturated riparian buffer (SRB), installed to reduce nutrient input into an adjacent stream, and the groundwater water upgradient were investigated to identify sources of chloride and to quantify the agricultural contribution. During a 7-year period, over 2,200 water samples collected from 35 wells, a diversion box, and a stream were analyzed for major anions. Additionally, the waters from four quarterly (seasonal) samplings (n = 155) during the seventh year were analyzed for cations. A cumulative probability curve identified three populations of chloride: (1) upgradient shallow groundwater; (2) diversion box (waters drained from an agricultural field), downgradient shallow groundwater (representing the SRB), diamicton groundwater (waters collected deeper from within the unweathered parent material); and (3) stream water. A background chloride concentration was established at 3.9 mg/L. Elevated concentrations above the background level coupled with principal component analysis suggest agricultural contribution from the diverted tile-drainage waters was a source of chloride. In winter and spring, chloride concentrations were highest in the diversion box, while up-gradient wells were the lowest. Waters downgradient of the diversion tiles had chloride concentrations lower than the tile but higher than the upgradient waters due to mixing of the diverted tile water and the upgradient groundwater. For the specific site, agriculture contributes chloride, but at concentrations below the chronic threshold of 230 mg/L.

INTRODUCTION

Long-term increases in chloride concentrations have been observed in streams and groundwater across snowbelt regions in North America and Europe, with many water bodies at risk of salinization (Kaushal et al., 2005; Dugan et al., 2017). Increasing chloride concentrations have been documented over the latter half of the 20th century in urban (Mullaney et al., 2009) and rural streams (Kaushal et al., 2005) of the United States. Sustained higher chloride concentrations are prolonged by chloride storage in soils that are transported deeper into the groundwater system or to surface water (Ledford et al., 2016). Bastviken et al. (2006) reported the natural chlorination of soil organic matter, representing a chloride sink over time periods of years to decades. Being a highly mobile and conservative ion, chloride is not easily removed from aquatic systems and is estimated to reside in groundwater for decades to thousands of years (Daley et al., 2009; Ludwikowski and Peterson, 2018).

At high concentrations, chloride is harmful in aquatic and terrestrial environments, resulting in the salination of freshwater ecosystems, acidification of surface waters, altered wetland communities, impaired reproduction of aquatic plants and animals, and the release of heavy metals in groundwater (Kaushal et al., 2005; Nelson et al., 2009; Cañedo-Argüelles et al., 2013). At concentrations below 100 mg/L, chloride alters microbial communities and inhibits denitrification (Kaushal et al., 2005; Cañedo-Argüelles et al., 2013; Hintz and Relyea, 2019). Because of these effects, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) set chronic (long-term exposure) and acute

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Environmental & Engineering Geoscience, Vol. 00, No. 00, Month 2024, pp. 000–000 1

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Student Professional Paper Award / *Okiemute Commander, Illinois State University (presented by Thomas Oommen)* for: Commander, Okiemute, Eric W. Peterson, and William L. Perry. "Agricultural Contribution of Chloride to a Saturated Riparian Buffer System: A Case Study in Central Illinois." *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience* 31.2 (2024): 119-130

Outstanding Chapter Award / *St. Louis Chapter (Accepted by Paco Gomez and Caleb Kuhn, presented by Renee Wawczak*

Outstanding Chapter Award / *Chicago Chapter (Accepted by Tim Drexler, Chapter Chair)*

"A massive thanks to the AEG community for creating such a **vibrant space for student researchers** and for supporting **emerging voices in environmental geoscience."**

—OYINDAMOLA OSENI, PHD CANDIDATE, THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The meeting featured three concurrent technical sessions per day with presentations on everything from machine learning applications, to the latest on PFAS investigations and remediation strategies, to what it takes to build the deepest slurry wall in Colorado, and what we can do to reverse the trend of reductions in higher education programs offering geoscience degrees.

If you wanted to learn more about sedimentary sequences, glacial deposits, or mapping stratigraphy—Friday morning's short course was for you! Short course participants learned how to decipher depositional environments and log sedimentary sequences with a discussion of the Geneva borehole, and how the newly revealed geology impacted hydrogeologic calculations expertly presented by Dan Kelleher from Midwest Geosciences Group and Susan Grover.

On Friday afternoon, we got the business of the association done with presentations by each member of the Executive Council, celebrated *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience* journal award winners including outstanding reviewer Gerry Stirewalt, outstanding journal article to William Haneberg, and outstanding student professional paper to Okiemute Commander of Illinois State University. We additionally awarded Chapters of the Year to AEG's Chicago Chapter and St. Louis Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year to Portland State University with recognition to student chapter runners-up University of Alaska Fairbanks and Fresno State, and officially anointed Paul Weaver as president. To close out the meeting, we enjoyed refreshments at the president's hosted reception.

Our guests enjoyed the week as well, with a guests-only welcome reception on Wednesday, guided tour of Frank Lloyd Wright homes on Thursday, and self-guided tours of Chicago using hop-on/hop-off bus tickets.

On Saturday, our Board of Directors met to do the business of the Association while field course participants visited Illinois Beach State Park to learn about the impacts that breakwaters along the shoreline have made to beach erosion along Lake Michigan.

We appreciate our generous sponsors and exhibitors, and thank all the meeting participants and presenters. It is because of you all that we had such a successful and enjoyable meeting! We're looking forward to seeing you at next year's annual meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

FIELD COURSE 1

The McCook Reservoir.

Geologic Trip Down the Chicago Area Waterway

By Visty Dalal, AEG Dams & Levees TWG Member

Field course 1 was led jointly by the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The course featured visits to three great locations in the Chicago area and provided AEG members with a broad view of several projects that are being worked on simultaneously. The projects ensure that Lake Michigan, which provides drinking water supply for more than 3 million people in the Chicago area and indirectly affects over 8 million people in the Great Lakes region, remains a viable source of water supply for a long time.

Stop 1: McCook Reservoir

The Chicagoland Underflow Plan (CUP) McCook Reservoir Project is part of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP). The TARP was developed in 1972 and consists of 110 miles of deep tunnels within four systems: Mainstream, Upper Des Plaines, Des Plaines, and Calumet. The McCook Reservoir stores combined sewer overflow waters from the TARP Mainstream and Des Plaines Deep Tunnel systems until it can be pumped to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant to be treated. AEG members were treated to a rare site visit of the reservoir excavated in Silurian dolomites and designed to contain approximately 22,000 acre-feet of combined storm and sanitary sewer overflows from the city of Chicago and surrounding communities. A 3-mile-long grout curtain provides a seal around the perimeter of the reservoir to keep combined sewer overflows in the reservoir and groundwater out of the reservoir.

Stop 2: Fish Barrier

The purpose of the site visit was to learn about the "aquatic invasive species barrier" that was deployed to restrict the spread of invasive species of Asian carp. Released in the 1990s from fishponds in Arkansas into the Mississippi River, the different species of carp—namely, silver, bighead, grass, and black carp—can grow to over 100 pounds and can jump out of the water when excited by marine engines. The non-native carp have no natural predators and can devour all the plankton and other small fish, leaving only their own species in the waterways. The concern is that these fish will make their way to Lake Michigan and devastate the Great Lakes fishing industry, which is estimated to be over $9 billion annually. Joe Schulenberg, USACE, explained to the AEG group the long list of side effects that the electricity-induced fish barriers caused on the surrounding railroad tracks, iron bridge foundation, and neighborhood houses, much to the interest of all attendees.

Stop 3: Lockport Lock and Dam

This stop provided several AEG members with their first opportunity to observe how a lock works. They were treated to a walk through the well-preserved 1905 Lockport Lock and Dam maintained by Chicago Sanitary District at their Des Plaines River Valley location. The lock has a 39-foot drop and is the second of eight locks on the Illinois Waterway connecting Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. Members were excited to see how the lock works as the water level in the lock was raised and lowered to let some small boats navigate through them.

[FROM TOP] Visty Dalal (left) and Luke Ducey (right) at the Lockport Lock. Field trip participants at the McCook Reservoir. Plaque at the Lockport Powerhouse.

FIELD COURSE 2

Illinois Beach State Park

Field course 2 was led by C. Robin Mattheus and Mitchell Barklage of the Illinois Geological Survey's Coastal Research Group. The field trip began at the North Point Marina and wound up at Illinois Beach State Park. Stops along the route offered opportunities to view and discuss modern shoreline morphodynamic trends and influences of offshore and onshore infrastructure; hydrodynamic impacts on coastal development (e.g., lake-level changes, storms, winter ice-cover), and relic shoreline-related terrains across the ridge plain with paleo-environmental implications.

Photo of field course participants, taken from a drone operated by ISGS, usually used to visually document the lake shoreline

Updates on Geologist Licensure in Virginia

By R. Drew Thomas, PG, Virginia Geologist Workgroup

R. Drew Thomas testifying before the House General Laws Committee in May 2025.

Despite past successes, work remains

During the 2023 session of the Virginia General Assembly, legislation (SB 1480) was introduced that called for the elimination of the certification of geologists in Virginia. This action created a groundswell of support for maintaining Virginia's certification program. Notably, past members of Radford University's Student Chapter of AEG as well as Radford's long-time faculty advisor Dr. Chester "Skip" Watts spoke in session to oppose the bill. Subsequently, SB 1480 was defeated for the calendar year, as it was passed by indefinitely by the Committee on General Laws and Technology by a 14 to 1 vote.

Seizing on the support garnered during the 2023 session, a small group of geologists, informally referred to as the Virginia Geologist Workgroup (VGW) was formed with the goal of pursuing legislation to strengthen the certification of geologists in Virginia. Having never pursued legislative issues, VGW members sought advice from industry organizations such as the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG), AEG, and representatives of other state geology boards who have experienced similar deregulation efforts. We quickly learned that making legislative change would require the services of a lobbyist and that a non-profit would need to be formed to accept donations to fund our efforts.

During a strategy meeting with members of the AEG Executive Council in 2023, it was suggested that the VGW's efforts be run through AEG. Being a nonprofit, AEG was properly designated to receive the donations made to fund the VGW's efforts. In addition, AEG was able to partially fund the VGW's efforts through donations from the organization's Legislative Fund.

During the 2024 session of the Virginia General Assembly, the VGW succeeded in having legislation (HB 287 and SB 184) introduced in the Virginia House and Senate. These identical bills proposed changes in the definitions of "geology," "geologist," and the "practice of geology." These definitional changes were the first steps in what we felt was going to be a three-step process. Of note was the modification of the definition of the practice of geology linking the practice to the enhancement and protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment. VGW members spoke in session in favor of the bills, as did others. After enduring a barrage of geology jokes and puns during committee testimony, the combined bill passed through both chambers unanimously and was signed by Governor Glenn Youngkin on March 9, 2024.

During the 2025 session of the Virginia General Assembly, the VGW introduced House Bill 1835. The bill proposed the creation of "mandatory licensure" of geologists in Virginia and defined geologists' services as "professional services." Establishing our services as

After enduring a barrage of geology jokes and puns during committee testimony, **the combined bill passed through both chambers unanimously** and was signed by Governor Glenn Youngkin on March 9, 2024.

professional services would put the profession on level ground with engineers, architects, and land surveyors (among others) and impact the way in which the services of geologists would be publicly procured within Virginia by prohibiting the solicitation or acceptance of work by professional geologists on any basis other than their qualifications for the work offered.

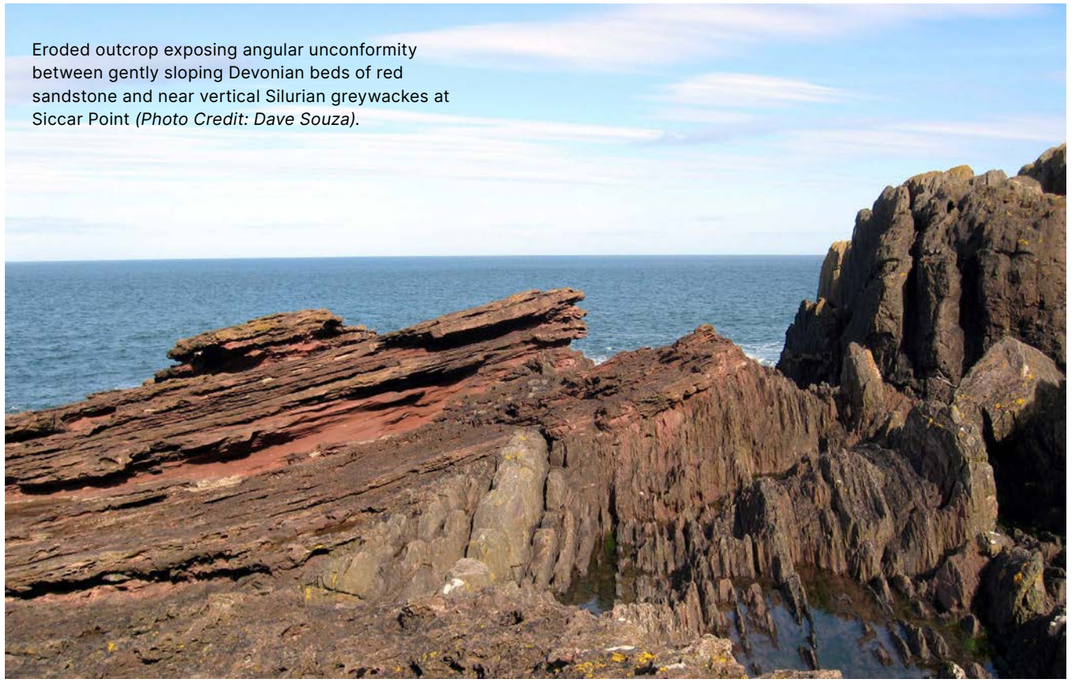
The 2025 session was wrought with many ups and downs. Late in the assembly, during discussions with the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) and ACEC, it became evident that to get the support of both organizations—critical to the success of the bill—we would have to remove the "professional services" language from the bill. With the revision, HB 1835 passed by a 96 to 4 vote in the House of Delegates and by a unanimous vote in the Senate. The bill was forwarded to the Governor assuming he had two options, either sign or veto the bill.

On March 25, 2025, Governor Youngkin surprisingly exercised a third option and amended the bill by adding a reenactment clause that delayed and pushed the bill forward to the 2026 session of the General Assembly without definitive action on his part. In total, the Governor amended over 100 approved House and Senate bills in this manner. The Governor's lack of action on these bills made Democratic House and Senate members furious and prompted a vote to return the bills to the Governor to force him to either sign or veto them. HB 1835 was signed into law by Governor Youngkin on May 2, 2025, making "mandatory licensure" of geologists in the Commonwealth of Virginia effective on July 1, 2025.

The elimination of the reference to "professional services" in HB 1835 left some unfinished business for the members of the VGW and AEG. Specifically, we plan to have a bill introduced during the 2026 session of the General Assembly that would add geologists to the list of occupations defined as professional services within the Virginia Code. The bill would also call for the creation of a continuing education requirement to maintain licensure. We have commitments from members of both the House and the Senate to carry the proposed bill.

Our past (and future) successes could not have been accomplished without the support of the geologists in the Commonwealth, the mentoring and financial assistance provided by our partners at AEG, our friends at ACEC and ASBOG, and businesses in the Commonwealth of Virginia that practice in the geosciences. The success we have enjoyed has truly been a collaborative effort seeking input from a wide array of stakeholders.

Enjoying a celebratory dinner after the 2025 General Assembly are Virginia Geologist Workgroup members. From left to right: Jason Early, Michael Lawless, Steve Pond, and R. Drew Thomas; Kelly Johnson and Chris McDonald of the lobbying team from Williams-Mullen; and Delegate Bill Wiley (R-32).



Eroded outcrop exposing angular unconformity between gently sloping Devonian beds of red sandstone and near vertical Silurian greywackes at Siccar Point *(Photo Credit: Dave Souza)*.

James Hutton Tercentenary 2026

Plans are underway to celebrate the 300th anniversary of James Hutton's birth in 2026. Hutton was born June 3, 1726, in Edinburgh, Scotland, and is widely recognized as the "Father of Modern Geology" and a pioneer of deep time. His study of the earth led Hutton to recognize "a succession of worlds" and to conclude his Theory of the Earth; or an Investigation of the Laws Observable in the Composition, Dissolution, and Restoration of Land upon the Globe with the famous statement "The result, therefore, of our present enquiry is, that we find no vestige of a beginning,—no prospect of an end."

To celebrate James Hutton's tercentenary, the Scottish Geology Trust plans to build a new Deep Time Trail at Siccar Point, where in 1788, Hutton observed vertical beds of greywacke unconformably overlain by gently sloping beds of red sandstone. A crowdfunder was launched in September 2025 to support construction of the 1.3-kilometer path from the nearest road. Readers may find more information on activities planned to mark the James Hutton tercentenary at https://james-hutton.org/tercentenary/ and https://www.ssdalliance.com/destination-development/james-hutton-tercentenary/.

Portrait of James Hutton by Sir Henry Raeburn *(Photo Credit: National Galleries of Scotland)*.

Greater Pittsburgh Chapter

By Jim Hamel, Honorary Member and News Wrangler

Dr. Abdul Shakoor (3rd from left) at the annual meeting with former students. Left to right: Dr. Yonathan Admassu, Chelsea Lyle, and Carl Jacklitch.

Numerous members of our chapter attended the annual meeting in Chicago. They included Dr. Abdul Shakoor, who saw many of his former students including Dr. Yonathan Admassu, Chelsea Lyle, and Carl Jacklitch.

On October 23, we had a joint meeting with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Pittsburgh Section Geo-Institute. Drs. Daniel Bain, Eitan Shelef, and Anthony Iannacchione of the University of Pittsburgh presented "IRISE Landslide Database: A Regional Landslide Inventory for Southwest Pennsylvania." This project inventoried more than 7,400 landslides from 12 agencies and/or data sources in a systematic and standardized format. Landslide events were attributed with an extensive list of parameters summarizing topography, geology, soils, recent weather history, and local mining history. Case studies describing the potential use of landslide data were also presented.

Member News

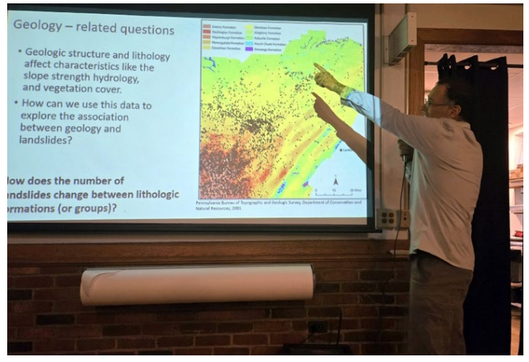
As reported in the Program with Abstracts issue of *AEG News*, AEG Past President and honorary member Richard "Dick" E. Gray passed away on June 25, 2025. Richard's full obituary can be found at https://bit.ly/47B3Rwx.

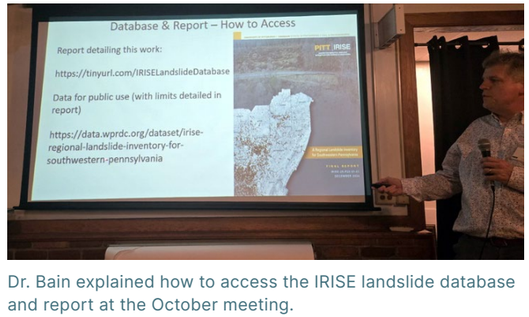
Jim Hamel of Hamel Geotechnical Consultants recently investigated a large colluvial landslide in a residential area in Beaver County, west of Pittsburgh. The associated litigation was settled in arbitration. Jim is presently working on upgrading spillway capacity on three old earthen water supply dams in the ridges east of Pittsburgh.

Jim and Betsy Hamel visited Corsica and Sardinia from May 29 to June 9. Corsica, the fourth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, is now part of France, and Sardinia, the second largest island in the Mediterranean, is now part of Italy. Corsica to the north is separated from Sardinia to the south by the 7-mile-wide Strait of Bonifacio. Both islands have long and complex histories of invasion, settlement, and ownership. Virtually every group that passed through the Mediterranean (Neolithic people, Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Moors, Spaniards, Italians, French, and others) spent time on these islands. Their cuisines are interesting mixes of this heritage, and their wines are excellent.

Both islands have long and complex geologic histories as well as complex geology. They were created in part by collision of the African and Eurasian Plates. A major fault zone runs north through Corsica, separating granitic rocks on the west from metamorphic rocks on the east. Corsica, the most mountainous island in the

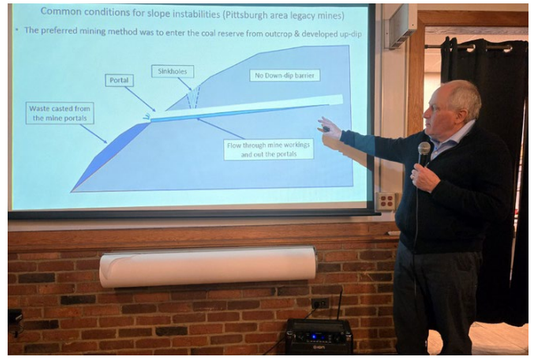
Dr. Shelef explored relationships between landslides and geology at the October meeting.





Dr. Bain explained how to access the IRISE landslide database and report at the October meeting.

Dr. Iannacchione discussed mining and slope instabilities at the October meeting.

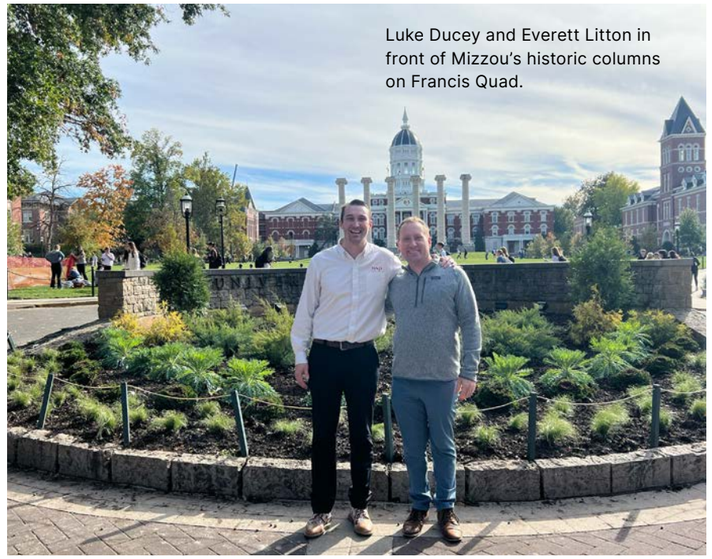


Mediterranean with more than 50 peaks above 2,000 meters elevation, is described as "a mountain in the sea." Faulted rock and fault topography are ubiquitous in Corsica and Sardinia, though Sardinia has more subdued topography developed on sedimentary and volcanic rocks as well as granites. Sardinia also has an 8,000-year history of obsidian and metal mining. Interested readers can find more information on Corsica and Sardinia online.

Faulted granite mountains, with remnant snow, near Calvi, northwest Corsica on May 29, 2025.

St. Louis Chapter

By Luke Ducey, Chapter Chair



Luke Ducey and Everett Litton in front of Mizzou's historic columns on Francis Quad.

Biannual AEG/UES Student Workshop

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, the AEG St. Louis Chapter hosted the biannual AEG/UES Student Workshop, and it turned out to be our largest and most successful one yet, with 52 students and early career professionals attending from St. Louis University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, the University of Missouri, and Missouri University of Science and Technology.

The workshop is designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, giving students a chance to gain hands-on experience and connect directly with professionals working in the field. Participants spent the day rotating through a series of interactive learning stations focused on geotechnical soil logging using a CME drill rig, soil/rock laboratory testing, environmental sampling, equipment, and field procedures, and geophysical methods and data collection techniques.

The enthusiasm throughout the day was contagious! The weather was great besides a slight shower, and everywhere you looked, students were asking questions, taking notes, and getting their hands dirty (in the best geologist way possible). Many shared that this was their first time using field and lab equipment and expressed how valuable it was to see how all the different pieces of the geotechnical, environmental, geophysical, and lab testing worlds connect.

A huge thank you goes out to UES for graciously hosting the event at their facility, to our dedicated volunteers who spent the day running each of the stations, and to our event sponsors, TekLab for their continued support and Eco Rental Solutions for providing equipment and resources to make the day a success.

This event truly embodies what AEG is all about: fostering professional growth, advancing practical skills, and connecting students with the next generation of professionals who are shaping our industry. Seeing the excitement and curiosity from everyone who attended reminds me just how bright the future is for our field.

We're already looking forward to the next workshop in 2027 and to continuing to grow this incredible partnership between academia, industry, and professional organizations.

"Down for That" Outreach at the University of Missouri

On Tuesday, November 4, 2025, Everett Litton, PE, ENV SP, and Luke Ducey, GRIT, CPG, of WSP USA, visited the University of Missouri in Columbia to give a presentation as part of the Underground Construction Association's (UCA) "Down for That" university initiative and the St. Louis Chapter's outreach to the AEG Mizzou Student Chapter. The event drew around 40 or more students studying civil and geotechnical engineering, as well as geology—all eager to learn more about the underground construction and tunneling industry.

Everett and Luke presented on the "Design and Construction of the Lower Meramec Tunnel," a major infrastructure project serving the St. Louis region. The discussion highlighted the complex geotechnical considerations, data collection, and reporting that goes into large tunnel projects as well as the teamwork going into a project of this size.

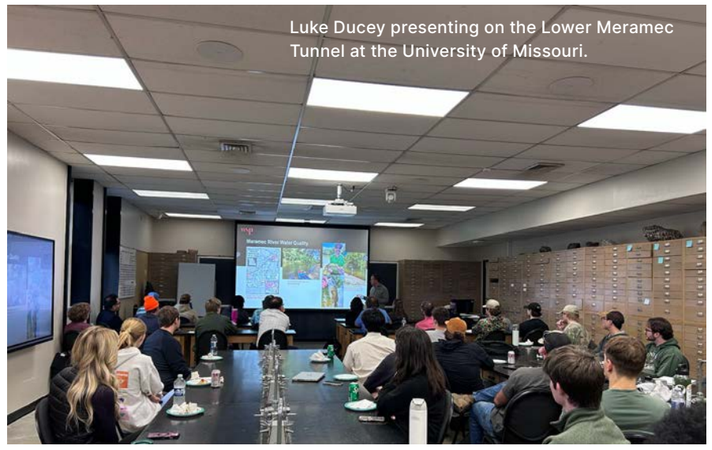
In addition to the technical overview, the presentation emphasized career pathways in underground engineering, environmental science, and geology, the importance of professional societies like AEG, the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), and the Underground Construction Association (UCA), and the many benefits of getting involved early through student memberships and scholarship opportunities. Several Mizzou professors even offered extra credit for attending the session, which helped drive strong engagement and turnout.

Students were highly interactive throughout the presentation, asking thoughtful questions about tunneling design, project logistics, and real-world applications. The session wrapped up with Shakespeare's Pizza, brought in as a local favorite, and a brief tour of the Mizzou campus, including a stop at the historic Columns on Francis Quad.

It was a rewarding experience to connect with such motivated students and share insights into an industry that blends geology, engineering, and innovation below the surface. The WSP team and AEG St. Louis Chapter, along with UCA, are proud to support initiatives that educate and inspire the next generation of professionals in underground construction.

Jessie Goodwin of UES presenting during the AEG/UES workshop.

Students learned about describing and classifying split-barrel soil samples.



Luke Ducey presenting on the Lower Meramec Tunnel at the University of Missouri.

New York–Philadelphia Chapter

By Loren Lasky, Chair

Dr. John Kemeny, the 2024–25 AEG/Geological Society of America (GSA) Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer, visited the New York–Philadelphia (NYP) Chapter in September 2025 and gave talks at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania and Stockton and Rowan Universities in New Jersey. His presentations on recent AI enhancements in the geosciences, and his one-on-one interactions with the students, were very well received.

AEG's annual meeting in Chicago in September 2025 was described as "great" by the NYP Chapter members lucky enough to attend.

In October, many NYP Chapter members enjoyed an underground tour of New Jersey's world-famous Sterling Hill zinc mine during the annual conference of our sister organization, the Geological Association of New Jersey (GANJ).

In November, Past NY–P Chapter Chair Mark Zdepski shared how he discovered that mixed waste materials—mislabeled as "clean fill"—were being given away in rural areas, in a talk entitled "The Dirt Diaspora in New Jersey."

At our December meeting, Vice Chair Tom Cumello will take his place as the next chair of the NY–P Chapter.

[FROM TOP]: Professor Emeritus John Kemeny presenting at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Rowan University faculty turned out to welcome NY–P board members and Jahns Lecturer Dr. John Kemeny on September 11, 2025. NY–P Chapter members attending the annual meeting in Chicago included, from left to right, Professor Naz Khandaker (York College), Tom Cumello (incoming NY–P chair), Curt Schmidt (co-chair of the 2024 annual meeting), and Steven Tapanes (New Jersey Department of Transportation).

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