

FACULTY & STAFF

Recognition

AWARDS CEREMONY

November 5, 2025

I ILLINOIS

Civil & Environmental Engineering

GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

FACULTY & STAFF

Recognition

AWARDS CEREMONY

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

3:30-5:00pm

KAVITA & LALIT BAHL SMART BRIDGE



CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

New Faculty & Staff



Kristine D'Urso
Senior Events
Coordinator,
RailTEC



**Alisha Funkhouser
-Walker**
Research Projects
Manager, ICT



Noah Garnica
Laboratory
Mechanic



Hongbo Ma
Assistant Professor



Alex Moss
Laboratory
Mechanic



Jordan Ouellet
Senior Research
Engineer



Sameer Sanadi
Program Specialist,
ICT



**Kimberley
Schlichting**
Event and Outreach
Coordinator, RailTEC



Amy Whitaker
Assistant Director of
Alumni and Career
Services

Staff Years of Service

AT THE UNIVERSITY

5 years.....Melissa Coyne, Paulina Kastania, Brittany Meeker, Andrew Weger

25 years.....Khaled El-Rayes

Staff Promotions

Kristi AndersonAssociate Director of Finance and Administration
Meg GriffinAssociate Director of Graduate Programs
Uthman Mohamad AliPrincipal Research Engineer
Mohsen MotlaghSenior Research Engineering
Greg RenshawSenior Principal Research Engineer
Becky Stillwell.....Associate Director of Undergraduate Programs

Faculty & Staff Awards

STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Suzanne Giesler



Marlo Hedrick



Michael Uhall



Nick York

STAFF EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Shaoying Qi

FACULTY TEACHING AWARD



Lewis Lehe

IMPACT AWARD



Marc Killion

U OF I EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING AWARD



Becky Stillwell

STAFF STANDOUT AWARDS

Lyndie Burnett
Jamar Brown
Fareeha Sajjad
Andrew Weger
Noah Garnica
Sweta Shah

Faculty National Service

Mohamad Alipour: Associate Editor and Editorial Board Member, Journal of Nondestructive Evaluation; Student Competition Committee Member, Engineering Mechanics Institute (EMI) Conference 2025, Machine Learning for Mechanics Competition, Chicago, Ill, 2025; Scientific Review Committee, International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS 2025), Brisbane, Australia, July 2025

Ana Barros: PNAS Nexus Editorial Board; UCAR Board of Trustees Elected; Editor, AGU Advances; DoE Earth Systems Grid Federation- US Advisory Board, NASEM Committee on Earth Sciences and Applications from Space, NASEM Intelligence Science and Technology Experts Group; DoE Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee; ASCE Industry Leadership Council; AGU Hydrology Section Past President; NAE Section 4 Chair; NAE Committee on Advancing Participation in Engineering

Eun Cha: Executive Committee, Secretary, ASCE Committee on Adaptation to a Changing Climate (CACC); Future Conditions Subcommittee, Load Combination Subcommittee, ASCE 7-28 Main Committee; Member, Vilas Mujumdar Resilience Award Committee; Associate Editor, Structural Safety; Co-editor, Special Issue on Climate Adaptation and Resilience for Buildings and Infrastructure; IDEA Institute

Ro Cusick: Demographics Committee, Mentorship Committee, AEESP; NSF Career Panel, 2025

C. Armando Duarte: Editorial board of Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering (2022-present); Member, USNCCM Fellows Subcommittee, 2025; Travel Fellowship Committee, US-ACM, 2025; International Advisory Committee, 4th International Conference on Computational Engineering and Science for the Safety and Environmental Problems (COMPSAFE2025), Kobe, Japan; Scientific Committee, Conference on Computational and Artificial Intelligence for Mechanics and Biomechanics (CCAIBM 2025), Porto, Portugal

Riley Edwards: Completed 9-yr term as Chair and Co-chair of TRB Committee AR050 – Track Structure System Design and Maintenance; American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Committee 30 (Ties); American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail – Noise and Vibration Technical Forum; British Permanent Way Institution (PWI)

Khaled El-Rayes: NSF Proposal Review Panelist

Larry Fahnstock: Associate Editor, Journal of Structural Engineering, ASCE; Executive Committee, Structural Stability Research Council; Member, TC3 – Loads, Analysis and Stability, American Institute of Steel Construction; TC9 – Seismic Systems, American Institute of Steel Construction; NEHRP 2026 Issue Team 5 - Drift Limits, Building Seismic Safety Council; Chair, NEHRP 2026 Issue Team 12 - Structural Design for Strength vs. Ductility, Building Seismic Safety Council; Member, ASCE 7-28 Seismic Subcommittee, ASCE, Structural Engineering Institute

Paolo Gardoni: Editor-in-Chief, Reliability Engineering and System Safety; Founding Editor and Member of the Editorial Board, Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure; Co-Editor, Book Series on Urban Transformation; Associate Editor: Urban Resilience and Earthquake Engineering, ASCE OPEN: Multi-disciplinary Journal of Civil Engineering, Modern Subsea Engineering and Technology, Structures and Infrastructure Engineering, ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering; Editorial Board: Intelligent Infrastructure and Construction, Disaster Prevention and Resilience, Fire, Resilient Cities and Structures, Reliability Engineering and System Safety, Sustainable Marine Structures, Applied Sciences, Structures and Infrastructure Engineering, Structural Safety, International Journal of Earthquake and Impact Engineering, ASCE-ASME Journal of Risk and Uncertainty Analysis; External Advisory Board, NORISK consortium; International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) Task Group; International Scientific Advisory Board for Next Generation Infrastructures (NGInfra); Joint Committee on Structural Safety (JCSS); Advisory Council-International Forum on Engineering Decision Making (IFED); External Advisory Board Critical Infrastructure Resilience Institute (CIRI); Board of Directors CERRA, ASCE Technical Committees, IASSAR Subcommittee; IFIP Working Group 7.5; ASCE Probabilistic Methods Committee; Co-Chair EMI International Conference 2026; Technical Committee "ISC", The International Union of Laboratories and Experts in Construction Materials, Systems and Structures (RILEM)

Nishant Garg: American Ceramic Society; Member, American Concrete Institute (ACI); Voting Mem-

ber, ACI Committee 123 'Research and Current Developments'; Associate Member, ACI Committees; Member, RILEM; RILEM Technical Committee; ASCE; American Society of Testing and Materials; International Committee on Irradiated Concrete (ICIC); Vice-Chair, ASCE EMI Committee; Committee Research Coordinator, Standing Committee AKM 50 'Advanced Concrete Materials and Characterization', Transportation Research Board (TRB); NSF Review Panelist; Proposal reviewer Nuclear Science User Facilities

Mani Golparvar: Construction Industry Institute (CII) Technology Committee; International Task Force on BIM-Driven Estimating & Scheduling, AIA BIM Forum; USIBD Imaging Committee; Chair, AI in Construction workshop, AI in Design workshop; Panelist, Reviewer, NSF, National Institute of Standards and Technology; Special Issue Editor, Robotics, Associate Editor, ASCE Open Multidisciplinary Journal of Civil Engineering; Specialty Editor, Information Technology in Construction, ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering and Management

Ramez Hajj: Editorial Board Member, Road Materials and Pavement Design; Junior Editorial Board Member, Journal of Infrastructure Preservation and Resilience; External Grant Reviewer, Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong, University of Balamand Internal Research Fund; Scientific Committee, 11th European Asphalt Technology Association (EATA) Conference, 2025, 3rd International Symposium on Pavement Functional Design and Management, 2025; Committee on Asphalt Binders, Member and Committee Research Coordinator, TRB; Standing Committee on Asphalt Mixture Evaluation and Performance, TRB; Materials Section Representative, Committee Research Coordinators Council, TRB; National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Technical Review Panel; Idea Institute

Jacob Henschen: Public policy and practice committee: infrastructure and Research, ASCE; ACI committee chair, co-chair

Hannah Horowitz: American Geophysical Union (AGU); American Meteorological Society (AMS); Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors; American Chemical Society (ACS)

Houtan Jebelli: Chair, Global Center for Excellence in Computing, ASCE; Technical Committees: IS-ARC 2025: The International Association for Automation and Robotics in Construction 2025, Montreal, Canada, I3CE 2024: 2024 ASCE International Conference on Computing in Civil Engineering, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, CRC 2024: CI & CRC Joint Conference 2024, Des Moines, Iowa; Panelist: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), NSF, NIH, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Megan Konar: New Frontiers Committee; AGU; Panelist, Reviewer NSF; Reviewer Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellent proposal

Eleftheria Kontou: Communications Coordinator, TRB Standing Committee on Alternative Fuels and Technologies; Associate Editor of Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment journal; Editorial Advisory Board of Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment Journal; Early Career Editorial Advisory Board of the Transportation Research Board Part C: Emerging Technologies journal; Reviewer: NSF, NASEM Gulf Research Program, Pacific Southwest Region University Transportation Center supported by the DOT, University of California ITS Statewide Transportation Research Program, Hong Kong MTR Academy; IDEA Institute

Frank Lombardo: Vice Chair of ASCE Tornado Loading Chapter; ASCE Future Conditions Subcommittee; SEAOL Board Member

Roman Makhnenko: ISRM Working Group on Suggested Method for Achieving Full Water-Saturation of Rock; ARMA Underground Storage and Utilization Technical Committee; ISRM Commission on Coupled Thermo-Hydro-Mech-Chemical Processes in Fractured Rock; ASCE GI Rock Mechanics Committee; Editorial Board Member, International Journal of Rock Mechanics & Mining Sciences; Academia Joven de España selection committee; Chair of sessions at CouFrac 2024 and Biot conference 2025; Panelist NSF EMI; Reviewer NSF, ACS, DOE

Megan Matthews: Convener, Session Chair AGU; American Society of Plant Biologists; Society for Experimental Biology; Academic Editor, PLOS Computational Biology

Ran Mei: Junior Editor, Letters in Applied Microbiology

Hadi Meidani: Vice Chair, Machine Learning in Mechanics Committee, ASCE EMI; Associate Editor, Measurement

Helen Nguyen: Chair of award committee, AEESP; Editor in Chief: AGU GeoHealth journal; Co-editor in Chief: Environment International

John Popovics: Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Nondestructive Evaluation; Technical Committee Secretary, committee 215 (Fatigue), ACI: ASCE Civil Engineering Education Innovation Working Group; ASCE 11-28 working group on Structural Assessment of Existing Structures; Reviewer, Panelist: NSF, DOE; National Academies expert panelist on Long-term Infrastructure Performance; Idea Institute

Ann Sychterz: Guest Editor, "Sensor Systems and Resiliency Diagnostics for Spatial Infrastructure", Frontiers in Built Environment; Special Issue Editor, "Adaptive and intelligent systems in structural engineering" ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering; Assistant Mentor, ASCE ExCEED teaching workshop; KEEN Consultant, Academy of Excellent in Engineering Education and KEEN Foundation; Vice-chair, ASCE SEI Young Professionals; Chair, ASCE EMI Experimental Analysis and Instrumentation TAC; Chair, ASCE SEI Structural Control and Sensing TAC; ASCE EMI Structural Dynamics TAC Committee; ASCE EMI Structural Health Monitoring TAC Committee, TUM GNI International Scientific Committee; Panelist, Reviewer: NSF GFRP Application, NSF CIVIC Proposal, NASA NSTGRO graduate fellowship; IDEA Institute

Alireza Talebpour: Associate Editor, Frontiers in Future Transportation; Chair, Outreach Subcommittee of the Traffic Flow Theory Characteristics Committee TRB; Reviewer: Transportation Research Part B: Methodologies, Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies, IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems, IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Vehicles, IEEE Transactions on Cyber Physical System, Transportation Research Record; Reviewer, NSF

Alex Tartakovsky: Groundwater technical committee, AGU

Christopher Tessum: Health Effects Institute (HEI) panel of experts

Rafael Tinoco: Vice-Chair IAHR Ecohydraulics Leadership Team; LOC member, Symposium on River, Coastal and Estuarine Morphodynamics, Barcelona 2025; Scientific Committee for the International Symposium on Coastal Resources and Environment (CORE); International Scientific Committee for the International Symposium on Environmental Hydraulics; Reviewer, Panelist NSF, IWRC; IMAGINE-STEM program

Vishal Verma: American Association of Aerosol Research; AGU; International Society of Exposure Sciences; Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors; American Chemical Society; Editor: Virtual Collections, journal Aerosol Science and Technology, Atmosphere journal, Aerosol Science and Technology journal

Jinhui Yan: Chair, Computational Fluid Dynamics and Fluid-Structure Interaction Technical Thrust Area; Elected Vice-Chair, Technical Committee on Computational Fluid-Structure Interaction, Applied Mechanics Division, ASME; Computational Mechanics Committee of EMI, ASCE; Fluid Dynamics Committee of EMI, ASCE; Editorial Board: Forces in Mechanics, International Journal of Fluid Engineering; Reviewer: RGC of Hong Kong, Ministry of Science and Technology, Chile, DOE, Army Research Office; Panelist, NSF

X. Shelly Zhang: Executive Committee, International Society for Structural and Multidisciplinary Optimization (ISSMO); Chair, USACM (U. S. Association for Computational Mechanics) Technical Thrust Area (TTA); USACM TTA on Multi-Scale, Multi-functional Materials and Structures; Vice-Chair, USACM TTA on Large Scale Structural Systems and Optimal Design (Large-Scale); USACM FRG Event Organizing Officer: Female Research Group; Early Career Researcher Committee, ISSMO; Diversity Fellowship Award Committee: Selection Committee for the USNCCM-16 Fellowship Awards; Panel Fellow, NSF CMMI's Game Changer Academies for Advancing Research Innovation, NSF; Technical Committee Member: Computational Mechanics of the EMI, ASCE; Editorial Board: Journal of Applied Mechanics, Journal of Structural and Multidisciplinary Optimization; Guest Editor, Frontiers of Structural and Civil Engineering

Lei Zhao: Award Committee, International Association of Urban Climate (IAUC); Scoping Expert (representing USA), IPCC AR7 Special Report on Climate Change and Cities; Panelist, Reviewer, NSF

Faculty Awards & Recognition

Imad Al-Qadi

2025 College Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring; Lifetime Achievement Award for University Transportation Education and Research



Chris Barkan

Robert E. Skinner, Jr. Distinguished Transportation Research Management Award



Ana P. Barros

Ray K. Linsley Award for Surface Water

Rahim Benekohal

John LaPlante Past President Award, ITE Illinois Section

Ximing Cai

International Water Resources Association Fellow



Nora El-Gohary

ASCE Computing in Civil Engineering Award

Marcelo Garcia

National Academy of Engineering Member

Paolo Gardoni

Engineering Mechanics Institute Fellow



Nishant Garg

2025 Dean's Award for Excellence in Research for Assistant Professor; American Ceramic Society Early Career Award



Mani Golparvar-Fard

2025 College Award for Excellence in Translational Research

Jeremy Guest

Levenick Center Director



German Gurfinkel

SEAOI Instructor Legacy Award

Youssef Hashash

UCA Outstanding Educator Award



Jacob Henschen

ASCE Student Chapter Outstanding Instructor Award

Megan Konar

AGU Fellow

Helen Nguyen

AGU GeoHealth Section Award; Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowship



Jeffery Roesler

2025 Collins Award for Innovative Teaching

Bill Spencer

Academy of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineers at Missouri University of Science & Technology



Christopher Tessum

AGU GEoHealth Early Career award

Erol Tutumluer

ASCE Distinguished Member

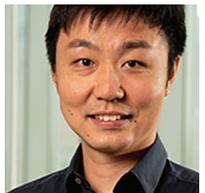
Shelly Zhang

2025 Dean's Award for Early Innovation for Assistant Professor; ASME Henry Hess Early Career Publication Award; Campus Distinguished Promotion Award; Hafka Young Investigator Award; Thomas J.R.Hughes Young Investigator Award



Lei Zhao

AGU James B. Macelwane Medal; AGU Fellow



Faculty Promotions

Nishant Garg

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Alireza Talebpour

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Roman Makhnenko

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Shelly Zhang

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Faculty Named Appointments

Jeremy Guest

LEVENICK PROFESSOR

Tim Stark

RALPH B. PECK PROFESSOR IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students

FALL '24, SPRING '25, SUMMER '25

Imad Al-Qadi

*Mohamad Alipour

Chris Barkan

Rahim Benekohal

Ximing Cai

Ro Cusick

Chris Duarte

J. Riley Edwards

*Khaled El-Rayes

*Larry Fahnestock

Marcelo Garcia

Mani Golparvar-Fard

Wilbur Greer

Jeremy Guest

Jacob Henschen

Hannah Horowitz

EJ Ignacio

Houtan Jebelli

Megan Konar

Lewis Lehe

Frank Lombardo

*Oscar Lopez-Pamies

Roman Makhnenko

Arif Masud

Megan Matthews

*Ran Mei

Scott Olson

Yanfeng Ouyang

James Pawlikowski

*John Popovics

Jeffery Roesler

*Art Schimdt

Murugesu Sivapalan

Bill Spencer

Ashlynn Stillwell

Ann Sychterz

Alireza Talebpour

Erol Tutumluur

*Na Wei

*Jinhui Yan

Shelly Zhang

Lei Zhao

**Instructor ranked as Outstanding for one or more semesters.*

