

# 69<sup>th</sup> National Engineers Week Reception and Awards Program

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, the St. Louis Chapter of MSPE gathered together at the Engineers' Club of St. Louis to honor six deserving members of the engineering profession and award a scholarship graduating high school senior, Wesley Caprio. A big "thank you" to everyone who work to make the evening an enjoyable time to gather for a meal and celebrate National Engineers Week.



From

*left to right: Mike Buechter, P.E. (President, St. Louis Chapter of MSPE), Edward Gerding, P.E. (Outstanding PE in Industry), Eric Hollman, P.E. (Young Engineer of the Year), Terri Fessler accepting for Denis Fessler, P.E. (MSPE Hall of Fame), Nicole Young, P.E. (Outstanding PE in Private Practice), Thomas Ratzki, P.E. (PE of the Year), Daniel Giammar, P.E., Ph.D. (Outstanding PE in Education), and Wesley Caprio (Scholarship).*



*Tom Lanzer (left) presents Eric Hollman with the award for Young Engineer of the Year.*

## **Eric Hollman, Young Engineer of the Year**

Eric Hollman is a graduated from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 2010 with a B.S in Civil Engineering & M.S in Civil Engineering in 2013 with an emphasis in structural engineering. He served as a materials testing instructor while at SIUC and was member of the concrete canoe design team.

Eric currently is currently a structural engineer at WSP where he has had the opportunity to work on a diverse range of projects. Notable projects include the San Diego Consolidated Rental Car facility, a four-story \$225 million-dollar structure featuring 3,200 parking spaces & the Fulton State Hospital, a 420,000 sq. ft Forensic Psychiatric Hospital, winner of the Mid-Missouri AIA Honor Award.

As a member of MSPE, Eric has helped facilitate and organize monthly lunch events, assist in events to promote MSPE membership, and teaches the structural portion of the MSPE P.E. prep course. In his free time, Eric enjoys chasing around his young twins, sleeping when said twins are not running around and watching and playing many of the sports St. Louis has to offer.



*Bently Green (left) presents Nicole Young with the award for Outstanding PE in Private Practice.*

### **Nicole A. Young, Outstanding PE in Private Practice**

Nicole A. Young, P.E. is the Principal Engineer and Owner of Lion CSG, a woman business enterprise focused on civil infrastructure and environmental engineering. For over 20-years, Ms. Young has successfully assisted organizations with program management, project management, planning, engineering, environmental and construction management.

She has been trained and certified as a Project Management Professional by the Project Management Institute. She has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Purdue University, a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis, and a Master of Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University.



*Yinjie Cheng (left) presents Daniel Giammar with the award for Outstanding PE in Education.*

### **Daniel Giammar, Outstanding PE in Education**

Professor Giammar is the Walter E. Browne Professor of Environmental Engineering in the Department of Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis. He enjoys teaching the first-year Introduction to Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering course as well as upper level courses on environmental chemistry, physical-chemical processes for water treatment, and environmental engineering laboratory methods.

Professor Giammar's research focuses on chemical reactions that affect the fate and transport of heavy metals, radionuclides, and other inorganic constituents in natural and engineered aquatic systems. His recent work has investigated the removal of arsenic and chromium from drinking water, control of the corrosion of lead pipes, geologic carbon sequestration, and biogeochemical processes for remediation of uranium-contaminated sites. His research has been sponsored by the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and Water Research Foundation. Professor Giammar is currently an Associate Editor of Environmental Science & Technology. Professor Giammar completed his B.S. at Carnegie Mellon University, M.S. and Ph.D. at Caltech, and postdoctoral training at Princeton University before joining Washington University in St. Louis in 2002. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Missouri.



*Bob Bechel (right) presents Ed Gerding with the award for Outstanding PE in Industry.*

### **Edward Gerding, Outstanding PE in Industry**

Ed Gerding is the vice president and senior chief engineer of Boeing Defense, Space and Security (BDS) Engineering Structures and Mechanical Systems, where he is responsible for driving engineering excellence in BDS Systems and ensuring the technical integrity and success of BDS development and production programs. His focus is on proactive risk identification and mitigation, and rapid resolution of the top BDS structural/mechanical technical risk/issues/opportunities and key technical decisions through his personal engagement and that of Boeing's technical fellows and subject matter experts. Gerding also has the role of the BDS Structures and Build engineering capability leader, where he has assigned and/or enrolled responsibility for all Structures Engineers and Production Engineers across BDS.

Prior to this position, Gerding was on special assignment to Boeing-South Carolina (BSC) as part of the enterprise Productivity Leadership Development Program (PLDP). As the BSC PLDP leader, he was responsible for identifying and executing affordability and flow reduction projects, safety initiatives and instilling Program Management best practices. Gerding began his career with McDonnell Douglas in 1984 as an associate structural design engineer on the AV-8B Harrier II program. He has worked a variety of other programs, including the C-17, F-15, F/A-18, A-10, and 787, as well as assignments on proprietary programs.

Gerding holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla, a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Washington University (St. Louis), and a master's degree in Business Administration from Maryville University.



*Bently Green (left) presents Thomas Ratzki with the award for PE of the Year*

### **Thomas Ratzki, PE of the Year**

Mr. Ratzki served as Black & Veatch's office manager and corporate executive in the St Louis Region for 17 years. He worked with all major water and wastewater utilities in the region plus the Great Rivers Greenway and East -West Gateway, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, USEPA and US Army Corps of Engineers.

A graduate of Oklahoma State University with a BS in Civil Engineering, he also received a master's degree in Civil Engineering from Mizzou. Over his 38-year career Tom has been very active with both the American Water Works Association and Water Environment Federation, serving on numerous committees, and leading the Missouri Environment Federation as President in 2014, and serves as a contributing author to the AWWA Manual M47 Capital Projects Delivery. He originally joined NSPE as a student at Oklahoma State

University, where he took the oath of the Order of the Engineer, before graduation. He was active in the Western Section of MSPE while initially employed by Black & Veatch in Kansas City. When he returned to Missouri in 2000, he reengaged with MSPE attending various St Louis Chapter MSPE meetings,



assisting in and organizing Engineers Week events and ultimately becoming an officer and State Director for the St Louis Chapter.

Since retirement, Tom has focused on “giving back” to the Engineering and Civil Engineering Education Community, including co-chairing the ASCE Report Card on Water Facilities for Missouri in 2018, and serving as Rate Commissioner for the Metropolitan St Louis Sewer District in 2018/2019, representing the Engineers Club of St Louis. He also continued his commitment developing the next generation of engineers through his commitment to students at his alma mater and local universities. He was selected to chair the Advisory Boards for both the School of Civil Engineering at St Louis University and his alma mater Oklahoma State University. He also is member of the Academy of Distinguished Civil Engineering Alumni at the University of Missouri which provides industry guidance to their Civil Engineering program.



*Denis Fessler, MSPE Hall of Fame*

### **Denis Fessler, MSPE Hall of Fame**

Denis Fessler, P.E., and fellow member for MSPE for 40 years, had an accident in 1993 that left him completely paralyzed from the shoulders down. Having an extremely positive approach to life.

Denis’s engineering background allowed him to make many modifications to his wheelchair that allowed him to be both independent and productive. His electric wheelchair, controlled by a joystick he operates with his chin and a specially equipped van allowed him to be mobile, and actively participate in a number of volunteer organizations like MSPE, the Boy Scouts, and church groups. He designed a table that attached to his wheelchair which held an array of remote controls, a telephony, and a 16” long “stick” he held in his mouth to operate the remotes, page through a stack of papers or pages in a book, or type on his computer. A special computer program allowed him to dictate text through a microphone for writing assignments and e-mail. Without his engineering background to perceive what might be possible and acquire the means to do it, he definitely would not be as well off.

Having served as St. Louis Chapter President from 1990-1991 and chaired numerous committees at the Chapter, State, and National levels, Denis remained active with the MSPE and St. Louis Chapter activities throughout his life. He was very proud of the initials after his name: P.E.

For his lifetime of service to professional engineering, we hereby induct Denis Fessler into the MSPE Hall of Fame.



*Ron Black (left) presents Terri Fessler with Denis’ induction to the MSPE Hall of Fame*