

THE CITADEL: CIVIL, ENVIRONMENTAL, & CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING NEWS

ASCE CAROLINAS CONFERENCE AT THE CITADEL

May '23– The Citadel's Department of Civil Engineering hosted the 2023 ASCE Carolinas Student Symposium (a.k.a. the Carolinas Conference) on April 13-15, 2023. Over 300 engineering students from ten different colleges and universities in North and South Carolina traveled to Charleston to compete in ten engineering competitions administered by over 50 judges. By the end of the weekend, UNC Charlotte placed First Overall. Even with our hosting responsibilities, The Citadel came in Second Overall. Third Overall went to North Carolina A&T.

The Carolinas Conference was planned and run through the joint efforts of faculty, staff, and students under the direction of Dr. Tim Mays, Dr. Simon Ghanat, Cadet Mary Coastal Watkins, and Cadet Richard (Hughes) Milling. This team started work last year to make the conference a success. Special thanks go to Mr. Ege Arslaner, laboratory manager for Civil Engineering, who took on additional job responsibilities to make the conference run smoothly.

Each competition had one to two students and a Citadel faculty acting as hosting coordinators, who helped run the competition by setting up, monitoring scoring, and assisting judges as needed. Student and faculty hosts were not allowed to compete in the event they hosted so even more Citadel students and faculty were involved as competitors and team faculty advisors. In total, 50 Citadel students and 15 faculty were involved in the conference as hosts or competitors.

The Citadel took first place in the Geotechnical Design Competition and second place in the Surveying and Transportation Design Competitions. The team members are listed below. Cadet Mary Coastal Watkins' T-Shirt Design took second place in the unofficial T-Shirt Competition.

This conference would not have been possible without the support of the engineering community in Charleston and beyond. The Citadel received \$55k in monetary donations as well as donated time and effort from our 50 professional engineering competition judges. We are incredibly grateful for all who helped make the 2023 Carolinas Conference a success!

Geotechnical Design Team

Student Team: Cadet Cameron Cole, Cadet Joshua Gibson, Cadet Stephen McLaughlin,
Veteran Student Zachary Campbell
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Simon Ghanat

Transportation Design Team

Student Team: Cadet Jacob Perkins, Cadet Avery Lollis, Cadet Eli Rodriguez,
Cadet William McLaurine
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kweku Brown

Surveying Team

Student Team : Cadet Matthew Schwab, Cadet Jackson Stembridge, Cadet Jacob Debenport, Cadet James Crowther, Cadet Aaron Corbett,
Evening Transfer Student Christopher Jones
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nandan Shetty



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE

3 ASCE CAROLINAS CONFERENCE CONTINUED, DEPARTMENT HEAD MESSAGE

4 DEPARTMENT STUDENT AWARDS, FACULTY NEWS



GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023 PROFILE

May 6– Saturday’s Commencement exercises brought to a conclusion The Citadel student experience for our **64 graduates**. One of the unique aspects of The Citadel is that family members who are alumni are able to present diplomas. This year, four parents presented this life-changing paper. The entire department is very proud of all who received diplomas.

The **cadet** undergraduate Class of 2023 began at The Citadel in the Fall of 2019 and were the last class to undergo the “traditional” Challenge Week structure pre-Pandemic. In the Spring, they experienced an early Recognition Day before being released to complete their freshman year via emergency online classes. As sophomores, they returned to The Citadel and helped establish what would be the “new normal” for the next several years. This involved hybrid classes, quarantine housing, and limited visits on and off campus. However, they persevered and by senior year, The Citadel had returned to business as usual. Throughout this, the cadet class excelled, including **13 who graduated Summa, Magna, or Cum Laude** and **three distinguished military graduates**.

Accompanying the cadet graduates are our **Active Duty and Veteran students**. In addition to dealing with the pandemic as a student themselves, several of these students also had to adapt to having spouses or children affected by the pandemic. These students have acted as leaders and peer mentors among our day students. Faculty would often find a veteran or active duty student leading a study session ahead of a test or reminiscing about military operations with a commissioning cadet. This group achieved high academic success where **four graduated with Cum Laude or higher**.



Our **evening undergraduate students** joined The Citadel in Fall 2021, thus missing most of the pandemic accommodations on our campus. Instead, the pandemic affected their pre-transfer experience and thus many took more than four years to complete their Bachelor’s degree as they had to adjust their work and home-life schedules to accommodate their own children’s education and wellbeing. None-the-less, these students kept their eye on the prize and are on the path to professional licensure as engineers in the state of South Carolina by virtue of completing their Bachelor’s degree. Among this group **four graduated Summa Cum Laude**, indicating a GPA of 3.90 or higher.

Our undergraduates all must complete a full-year, two-semester capstone design project. This year’s teams worked on an interdisciplinary design-build project for the Charleston Executive Airport on Johns Island as the state of South Carolina begins to contemplate how to accommodate the emerging EvTOL technology. This project included presentations to FAA, state, and military stakeholders by the students. Projects concluded with a final presentation on May 2nd to a panel of project advisors, including Citadel faculty, alumni, and industry professionals. Team pictures are shown along with our professional panelists.

Not to be forgotten are our **Master’s degree graduates**. Students completing this online program normally balance full-time employment with their education and are always among our most goal-oriented students. Among this year’s cohort, **two graduated with perfect 4.00 GPAs** and one was the **second externally-funded research student** of the department. We look forward to seeing their careers continue to advance.

Get Involved with CECE: CEE faculty strive to provide quality lectures and assignments to support student learning, but many of the most impactful experiences occur due to the generosity of our alumni community. They help us provide student experiences such as guest speaker visits, field trips, and internships. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact Dr. Davis <jeff.davis@citadel.edu>

Graduates By The Numbers	Cadets	Active Duty	Veteran	Evening Transfer	Master’s
Civil	25	0	5	9	9
Construction	14	1	0	1	--

ASCE CAROLINAS CONFERENCE



Competition	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
1. Concrete Canoe	Clemson	UNC Charlotte	NC A&T
2. Steel Bridge	UNC Charlotte	NC State	--
3. Mead Paper	Duke	Clemson	NC State
4. Innovation	UNC Charlotte	NC A&T	--
5. Surveying	UNC Charlotte	<u>Citadel</u>	HGTC
6. Freshmore	Duke	NC A&T	UNC Charlotte
7. Quiz Bowl	NC State	USC	Clemson
8. Lightest Bridge	Duke	NC State	HGTC
9. Transportation Design	UNC Charlotte	<u>Citadel</u>	NC A&T
10. Geotechnical Design	<u>Citadel</u>	NC State	Duke
* T-Shirt Design	NC A&T	<u>Citadel</u>	HGTC



DEPARTMENT HEAD'S MESSAGE: WILLIAM J. DAVIS, PH.D., P.E. (AL)

Greetings from LeTellier Hall ! Here are a few additional department updates from 2023 Spring semester:

The 2023 ASCE Carolinas Conference, Apr. 13-15, 2023, results are summarized elsewhere in this newsletter, but here are two additional important reflections:

The professionalism, collegiality and sportsmanship between rival colleges and universities displayed at the Carolinas Conference was all phenomenal. Student teams enthusiastically pitched in to help each other during events and came forward to volunteer at all conference venues. Rest assured, the future of civil engineering is in great hands with the fortitude and inspirational spirit of the student leaders who participated in 2023 ASCE Carolinas Conference.

The Citadel's high level of success, outperforming even larger engineering programs, continues as Citadel students earned 2nd place in the Conference Championship. This extends our record to 16-podium finishes in 24-years, including six Conference Championships, and qualification for seven national competitions.

Update on new engineering building, Planning and fund-raising campaign activities are underway for a new 80,000 sq. ft., 4-story, state-of-the-art school of engineering building that will replace historic LeTellier Hall. Completion is expected within 5-years.

The **Bert Booth Williams Award** is given to the top placing senior project teams. The award was created in the mid-1980s by the members of the Class of 1943 in honor of Maj. Williams, Citadel faculty from 1938 to 1953. The 2023 recipients were selected by a panel of professional engineers based on their capstone presentations. Congratulations to Ian Bradbury, Zachary Campbell, Tromaine Cobbs, Cameron Cole, Dalton Cross, Randall Harville, Charles Hopkins, Ashley James, Rudy Kirvin, Noah Pearson, Blayne Pennartz, Andrew Pickens, and Eli Rodriguez.

Please visit us on campus, or reach out, if you would like more information about our students, academic programs, or upcoming department events!
<https://go.citadel.edu/civil-environmental/>





FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Tim Mays and **Dr. John Ryan** will spend the next several years working with faculty from USC and Clemson to rewrite the **SCDOT Seismic Design Specifications for Highway Bridges** and related structures. The project will update the seismic demand, analysis, and detailing procedures for the state of South Carolina.

We will say a short farewell to **Dr. Dimitra Michalaka** during her **full year sabbatical** during AY 2023-2024. She is off to Europe to work there while taking a break from Charleston.

The Citadel's Annual **New Faculty Excellence Award** recipient for 2023 is **Dr. Rebekah Burke**. A fitting recognition of her strong performance in the classroom and leadership in the Construction Engineering Program.

There was a tie again this year in awarding the **Harry Saxe Department Teaching Award**. This award is given based on student votes and course evaluation scores. Congratulations to both **Dr. John Ryan** and **Dr. Stephanie Laughton**.

Departures

After five years of continuous dedication to the department and the establishment of the Construction Engineering program, **Dr. Rebekah Burke** will be departing The Citadel. We wish her the best as she returns to Virginia to be with family.

Dr. Nandan Shetty is also leaving the department after four years as an Assistant Professor and numerous contributions to the Surveying and Environmental Engineering courses. We wish him the best as his family move to Connecticut.

2022-23 DEPARTMENT STUDENT AWARDS

Col. Louis Shepherd LeTellier Award

SSgt Kevin Haddad, USMC
Grier Hensley
Aaron Panos
Jackson Stancell

George Walker White Award

Tyler Long
Jacob Perkins

Col. Charles Lindbergh Award

Steven Canaday
Grier Hensley

Christopher Schultz Gadsden Award

Avery Lollis
Tyler Long

CONE Student Merit Award

SSgt Kevin Haddad, USMC
Grier Hensley

Capt. Benjamin Sammis USMC Award

Jacob Heaton
Mary Coastal Watkins

Loring Himelright Award

Julian Jenkins

Thomas C. Evans, Jr. Award

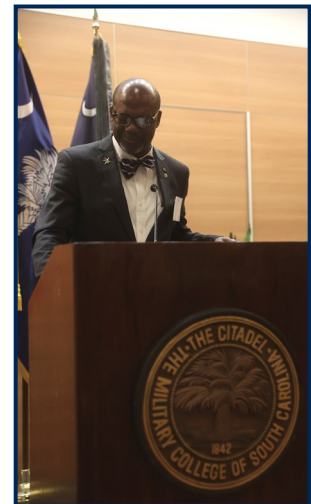
Adam Balawi
Jarret Butzer
Zachary Campbell
Steven Canaday
Curt Caudle
Cameron Cole
Caroline Collins
Kelsey Cordero
Forrest Dangerfield
Chayne Dawley
James Day
Joshua Gibson
Blake Giles
SSgt Kevin Haddad, USMC
Grier Hensley
Ashley James
Julian Jenkins
Rudy Kirvin
Avery Lollis
Tyler Long
Stephen McLaughlin
Kempton Meetze
William Minor
Aaron Panos
Noah Pearson
Blayne Pennartz
Jacob Perkins
Eli Rodriguez
Jackson Stancell

2023 ACADEMY of ENGINEERS INDUCTEES

The Citadel's Academy of Engineers Class of 2023 included two Civil Engineering alumni, adding to the 22 Civil alumni previously inducted.

Charles (Charlie) Watson, Jr. (pictured left) graduated from the Corps of Cadets in 1958. He spent most of his career as a consultant and established his own firm in 1973. The firm later became part of the AEC Consulting Group, a national leader in civil engineering, geo-environmental, architecture, and construction projects.

Melvin Williams (pictured right) graduated from the evening transfer program in 2000. He is a current Vice President at Terracon, a major US consulting firm for environmental, geotechnical, facilities, and materials projects. He was recently named the "2023 Engineer of the Year" by the Charleston Engineers Joint Council (CELC) in recognition of his accomplishments in the Charleston Area.



Giving To CECE

Sustaining the levels of student success highlighted in this newsletter is greatly aided by support from our benefactors. You can contribute by making a donation designated for Civil & Environmental Engineering through The Citadel Foundation at <http://foundation.citadel.edu/> or call CEE at 843-953-5083.

Newsletter Prepared by Dr. Laughton. To submit content for future newsletters, email <slaughton@citadel.edu>