

DR. EMMETT DAVIS, JUNIOR, '50, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING NEWS



SHOOT FOR THE STARS, AIM FOR THE MOON

Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineers are not often considered the disciplines to shoot for the stars. We are considered much more grounded, designing and building roads and bridges, not rockets. That said, CECE students and alumni, with firm foundations in reality, are willing and able to pivot when needed to meet project goals. Such adaptability is seen throughout our graduating class (see page 1), many of whom spent their senior year of high school “hybrid” during the recovery from COVID-19. Our student’s adaptability and resilience is shown in the results of the 2025 ASCE Carolinas Student Symposium and their future plans (see page 2). As good engineers, we always prepare for contingencies and act accordingly.

PROFILE OF THE CECE CLASS OF 2025

This year’s graduating class received their bachelors or master’s degrees on Saturday, 3 May 2025. Congratulations to all of our new graduates! You can find some of their profiles and memories of their time at Citadel on the next page. The senior cadet class has achieved remarkable accomplishments. They began their college journey in the summer of 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic and have demonstrated significant growth and leadership. This group put their heart and soul into the ASCE Carolinas Conference competition teams. They also served as pre-knob tour guides, research assistants, and student leaders in organizations across campus.

CADET CIVIL ENGINEERING BACHELOR’S DEGREES: 11

CADET CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING BACHELOR’S DEGREES: 13

CADET CIVIL OR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING MINORS: ?

CTP CIVIL ENGINEERING BACHELOR’S DEGREES: 11

CTP CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING BACHELOR’S DEGREES: 0

CIVIL ENGINEERING MASTER’S DEGREES: 9

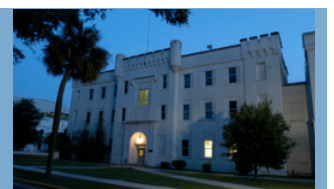


IN MEMORY OF JORDAN OLHEISER

This edition of the CECE Newsletter is dedicated to Jordan Reef Ann Olheiser. Jordan tragically passed away over the 2025 spring semester. Jordan would have been apart of the 2025 graduating class of The Citadel Graduate College with a bachelors degree in Construction Engineering. Jordan will be remembered as a vibrant and kind classmate who brightened our community. She is the recipient of the Col. Thomas Evans Award.

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2025 ASCE CAROLINAS CONFERENCE REPORT



The Citadel Delegation was made up of 45-students and 4-faculty members who participated in 12 of the 15 competitions.

Overall Conference Championship

1st Place, Clemson Univ.
2nd Place, UNC-Charlotte
3rd Place, NC A&T

Citadel Conference/Symposium Results

1st Place, Mission to Mars
2nd Place, Sustainable Solutions
3rd Place, Quiz Bowl
3rd Place, Freshmore

Future Conference/Symposium

2026 Conference Host: NC A&T, Greensboro, NC
Citadel on Schedule to Host: 2028

CTP STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN ASCE ACTIVITIES



Natalie Mueller was awarded the Col. Charles Lindbergh Award for her leadership and outstanding scholarship.

Natalie underwent a journey this past year with the ASCE Carolina's Conference that showcased her persistence, optimism, and adaptability. Natalie started out following her passion for structural design by working with the Steel Bridge team. She worked on the design calculations and drawings for the competition, but unfortunately there was not enough support to complete the challenge. Natalie then worked briefly on Timber Strong, again with a focus on structural design, ensuring that enough work was completed to pass on to the team next year. After helping with two challenges that would not be sending teams to compete in the conference, Natalie did not give up. She then reached out to the Sustainable Solutions Team to see if there was any way to help, and she ended up making a very important addition to the team. She was able to create the poster and presentation for the competition, tying all of the pieces created by her teammates together.

Ultimately her work and tenacity paid off, as the Sustainable Solutions team came in 2nd place during the competition. This resolve and desire to contribute to the conference is analogous to her as a student well, as she has shown this work-ethic in the classroom and through research projects. After graduation, Natalie will be relocating to the DC metro area, but will still be closely tied to The Citadel. Over the summer, she will continue a research project focused on translating scientific information to local community members by creating a Storymap on historic flood adaptation investments for Folly Beach, SC. She will also be pursuing her master's degree in Civil Engineering, and mentioned she'd be happy to come back next year to help with the Carolina's Conference.

CADET CAMPUS LEADERSHIP



Cadet Gurley pictured with his father, a Citadel Alumni.

Cadet Clayton “Clay” Gurley graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor’s in Civil Engineering in May 2025. He was part of the prestigious Summerall Guard for the 2024-2025 academic year. There was excitement brewing when the Summerall Guards were invited the inauguration of the 47th President of the United States. However, due to extremely cold weather forecast for inauguration day, the event was moved indoors and the Guard sadly did not get to attend. “We were prepared and all packed for the trip to Washington D.C. We were all very disappointed because it was a very great opportunity to be a part of our country’s history. We stayed focused on the next opportunity to perform at Mardi Gras in New Orleans and to represent the Citadel with pride and honor,” Clay expressed.

Clay mentioned that he joined the Summerall Guard mainly because his father is a Citadel grad. When Clay would come to campus as a little boy, he was awed by the Parade performances from the Guard. He was confident he could complete his arduous Guard training because he had several of his classmates alongside him the whole way.

In Clay’s opinion he had the best of both worlds at the Citadel, academics and military. In his own words, “I thoroughly enjoyed the Civil Engineering program. With a small class size and intentionally designed classes, learning was made easy and the environment helped to build rapport with professors and fellow students. I felt that my professors always valued my learning.” Clay accepted a job with Metromunt Corporation as a structural design engineer in Greenville SC. Additionally, he has accepted a Commission in the South Carolina National Guard as an Engineering Officer.

In Spring of 2024 when selected to be Honor Board Chair, Cadet Grant Kidner was expecting the usual challenges – shepherding a group of 70 Honor Representatives through enforcement of the Citadel Honor Code via the Honor Court and providing accountability/training to cadets on campus found to fall short. Instead, he faced a year of debating policy and making enforcement decisions related to the use of AI on campus. Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot seemed to suddenly be everywhere on campus in Academic Year 2025-26. Due to this quick appearance, academic departments and faculty had yet to establish rules and guidelines for their use in classes. For the very by-the-books Grant, the unclear expectations led to some intense soul searching and some critical conversations with administration on campus.

Even through this Honor Board challenge in his senior year, Grant persisted, graduating in May 2025 with a major in Construction Engineering. At Graduation, Grant received the John O. Willson Ring – an award for “the finest, purest and most courteous member of the class” as elected by the rest of the graduating class. He was commissioned into the US Army following in the footsteps of his two older brothers, John and Jeffrey Kidner (Citadel Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering majors respectively). What a family tradition!



Grant Kidner accepting the John O. Willson Ring award.



Col. Loring K Himelright Award
Caden Leckelt

**Construction Engineering Outstanding
Student Merit Award**
Bryson Peppers

Col. Louis S. LeTellier Award
Clayton Gurley
Nathan A. Henigan
Natalie G. Mueller
William E. Roberts
Derrick R. Talley
David H. Ulit
Joshua D. Wetmore

**Col. Christopher S.
Gadsden Award**
Jake E. Debenport
Louise C. Bonnimond

Col. Charles Lindbergh Award
Natalie G. Mueller
Joshua D. Wetmore

George Walker White Award
Daniel J. Ramirez-Vital
Grant C. Kidner

**Citadel CGC Outstanding
Student Award**
?

Capt. Benjamin Sammis, USMC Award
Grady J. Meeks
Barrett Thompson

Bert Booth Williams Award
?

Col. Thomas Evans Award

Isaac C. Berenyi
Shane P. Brennan
James K. Crowther
Jake E. Debenport
Landon W. Gregory
Clayton G. Gurley
Nathan A. Henigan
Caden M. Leckelt
Daniel W. Lewis
Samuel J. May
Daniel J. Ramirez-Vital
William E. Roberts
Matthew S. Schwab
Nathaniel E. Standing
Derrick R. Talley
Jacob J. Thompson
David H. Ulit
Charles J. Walker
Joshua D. Wetmore
Louise C. Bonnimond
Michael J. Busche
James C. Duke
Grant C. Kidner
Jordan Olheiser
Bryson W. Peppers
Matthew J. Polk
Hampton T. Sorrows
Heath H. Tankersley

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



**GIVING
TO
CECE**

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