

# TRANSITIONS



## *A Home for Civil Engineering*

Martha Altschaeffl donates house  
in husband's memory [PAGE 4](#)



**PURDUE**  
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Lyles School of Civil Engineering



# MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL HEAD

I know this sentiment has been shared time and time again, but as we approach the end of both this semester and of 2022, I am practically in shock at how quickly these past 12 months have flown right on by. Yet, in an odd way, I find this fact rather comforting more than anything else.

This year truly felt like something that was actually close to “normal” for the first time in quite a while. As the months rolled by, I – and, from what I could see, many others – stopped focusing so much on merely “getting through this” and instead had sights set squarely on enjoying the moment and looking ahead.

Of course, having a “heads down” mindset is certainly good – I would even say it is required for civil engineers. However, focusing solely on the task and moment in front of you, can be both exhausting and limiting. It can also deprive one from both the reward of one’s work and limits their creativity for future tasks to come. And, with us just weeks away from the start of a new year, is there really any better time than now to look back on one’s successes and look forward to new opportunities?

With that in mind, I cannot help but feel an overwhelming sense of pride and excitement when I reflect on the incredible achievements the students, alumni, faculty and staff of the Lyles School of Civil Engineering have accomplished – and I cannot wait to see what more is to come in 2023. From breakthroughs in civil engineering research to personal accomplishments ranging from starting new businesses and alumni seeing their children become Boilermakers themselves, we all have so much to celebrate and look forward to.

In this edition of *Transitions*, you will find several such stories of achievements and appreciation. Stories this year include: the generous gifts given to Purdue Civil Engineering that include new scholarships, endowments and even a house for visiting faculty and researchers; the tremendous study abroad opportunities available to our students; and a recap of our social events and recognitions our distinguished alumni achieved.

Of course, the contents of this magazine can only capture a fraction of the work and efforts achieved by our school’s friends and families – and I would love to know more about your accomplishments and plans for the future. I welcome anyone who visits campus to stop by my office and share your thoughts and experiences with me. My door is always open!

All the best,

**Rao S. Govindaraju**

*Bowen Engineering Head of Civil Engineering  
and Christopher B. and Susan S. Burke Professor of Civil  
Engineering*

# TRANSITIONS

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Martha (Filiatreau) Altschaeffl (HHS 1965, MA 1966) relaxes in the living room of the Northwestern Avenue home she shared with her husband, Al Altschaeffl (BSCE 1952, MSCE 1955, PhD 1960), for 51 years. Altschaeffl donated the house to the Lyles School of Civil Engineering in Al's memory.

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**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

Lyles School of Civil Engineering

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

KOSIBA BROTHERS CEMENT THEIR FATHER'S PURDUE LEGACY WITH ENDOWMENT



## A Purdue education

was seen as the turning point for one family — and, now, that family wants to ensure it can be for others as well.

Brothers and Purdue University alumni Mark, Ric and Steve Kosiba have — to cement the legacy of their father and fellow alumnus, Richard Kosiba, and their mother, Barbara, a die-hard Boilermaker fan — established an endowment with the Lyles School of Civil Engineering.

Ric Kosiba said he and his brothers have been discussing giving back to Purdue for some time as it was always something they knew they wanted to do.

“One of the things that we always bring up when we talk about our family is how important Purdue was to our family’s lore,” Kosiba said. “It was the foundation for our father to make something for himself and set our family in the direction that it is today.”

Richard Kosiba, a former-chief civil engineer at Bechtel, was raised almost solely by his mother, a Polish immigrant, after his father passed away when Richard was a child, Ric explained. Despite their circumstances, Richard’s mother did all that she could to support him — and, through their hard work — he was able to attend Purdue where he earned a degree in civil engineering.

“From that point on, the Kosiba family bled black and gold,” Ric said. “Despite our family relocating to California, we all ended up going to Purdue for college. We cannot say enough great things about the institution and the doors it opened for our family. And, if you asked my dad, he would say the two most important things that happened in his life, he would always say it was meeting his wife, Barbara, and going to Purdue. We couldn’t be happier to give back to a school and university that gave our family so much.”



Barbara and Richard Kosiba “bled black and gold,” said their son Ric.



Donations to the Richard and Barbara Kosiba Civil Engineering Scholarship Endowment can be made at [bit.ly/ce-kosiba](https://bit.ly/ce-kosiba)



*Martha (Filiatreau) Altschaeffl (HHS 1965, MA 1966) relaxes on the front lawn of her Northwestern Avenue home with Rao S. Govindaraju, the Bowen Head of Civil Engineering. Altschaeffl donated the house to the Lyles School of Civil Engineering in memory of her husband, Al Altschaeffl (BSCE 1952, MSCE 1955, PhD 1960).*

# A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

**DONATION OF HOUSE  
HONORS AL ALTSCHAEFFL,  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO MANY  
ICONIC CAMPUS STRUCTURES**

What do Mackey Arena, Neil Armstrong Hall of Engineering, the Bell Tower and the Gateway to the Future arch have in common? They are among the more than 170 building projects across campus with soil foundations designed by Al Altschaeffl (BSCE 1952, MSCE 1955 PhD 1960), a professor of civil engineering with expertise in geotechnical engineering who continued to consult on projects following his retirement from the University in 2000.

His interests outside of work included stamp collecting, reading, investing and volunteering at Church of the Blessed Sacrament and West Lafayette School Corporation. Al died on April 12, 2019, in his West Lafayette home.

To honor Al's devotion to Purdue, his wife, Martha (Filiatreau) Altschaeffl (HHS 1965, MA 1966), is donating the home the couple shared for 51 years together to the Lyles School of Civil Engineering through a planned gift. The house will be used as a temporary residence for visiting scholars and faculty. Built in 1929, it sits on Northwestern Avenue directly across from the Purdue Athletics facilities where the couple attended many Boilermaker athletic events.

"Al loved everything related to Purdue Athletics," Martha Altschaeffl said. "Basketball, football, volleyball, baseball, wrestling — he enjoyed it all. He would usher at football and basketball games. On our first date, Al took me to a wrestling match in Lambert Fieldhouse. After that, he just kept calling."

The couple was married in 1966 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church on campus and held their wedding reception in the Anniversary Drawing Room in the Purdue Memorial Union. Two years later, they bought their dream home. Martha was the first to tour the three-bedroom house and fell in love with it because it reminded her of the house she grew up in. When Al looked at the house, he brought his friend Martin Gutzwiller, a professor of structural engineering from 1949-1982, along to help evaluate its construction. Gutzwiller's approval of the structural integrity of the house, along with its prime location, made it an ideal home for the Altschaeffls.

Over the years, Al and Martha enjoyed entertaining in their home. They hosted receptions for award recipients and invited graduate students for backyard barbecues. Al served as major professor to approximately 100 graduate students during his tenure, many of whom remained in touch with the Altschaeffls. Recently, Martha met a man working on a neighbor's house who recognized the name Altschaeffl and told her he had been a student in Al's soils class and that Professor Altschaeffl was the only instructor he had who made the material easy to understand.

"Al expected a lot from his students," Martha Altschaeffl said. "He could be tough. I hear from former students all the time. They would come back to visit us years later. Most of them have had very successful careers."

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

A child of German immigrants, Al Altschaeffl was born in the United States. His father was unable to find work, so the family returned to Germany to live with relatives.

“Once Hitler came to power, they were afraid Al would be drafted into the Hitler Youth,” Martha Altschaeffl said. “So they came back to the United States and settled in New York. Al was a brilliant man. He attended the academically prestigious Brooklyn Technical High School before he came out to Purdue for college.”

Al Altschaeffl enrolled at Purdue as a freshman in 1948 and joined the faculty after earning his master’s and PhD. His expertise in soil mechanics made him a sought-after consultant on many of Purdue’s most iconic building projects. He especially enjoyed working on Purdue Arena in 1964, later renamed Mackey Arena, and the 2007 addition to the venue.

He also ushered at the Hall of Music, helped plan the logistics for commencement ceremonies for 30 years and served on the University Senate. Living right across the street from campus, the Altschaeffls walked to work every day.

Martha Altschaeffl arrived at Purdue in 1962, disembarking a bus from Louisville with only one suitcase. A graduate student in home management and family economics, Martha was a home management house adviser for undergraduate seniors. The curricula at the time included a homestay where seniors lived together and managed the household as part of their coursework.

“There were four houses in a row on State Street and I oversaw house No. 1,” Martha Altschaeffl said. “The students had to cook and clean, purchase groceries and plan a party. Here I was right out of college and I was supposed to be advising them on all this stuff.”

After some time as house mother, Martha Altschaeffl switched her focus to liberal arts and earned a second master’s degree in English. She eventually taught undergraduate courses in the department for 25 years, retiring soon after Al did. She was active in Purdue Women’s Club for many years, organizing the annual bus trip to Chicago. She also is board secretary for the West Lafayette Library Board of Trustees.



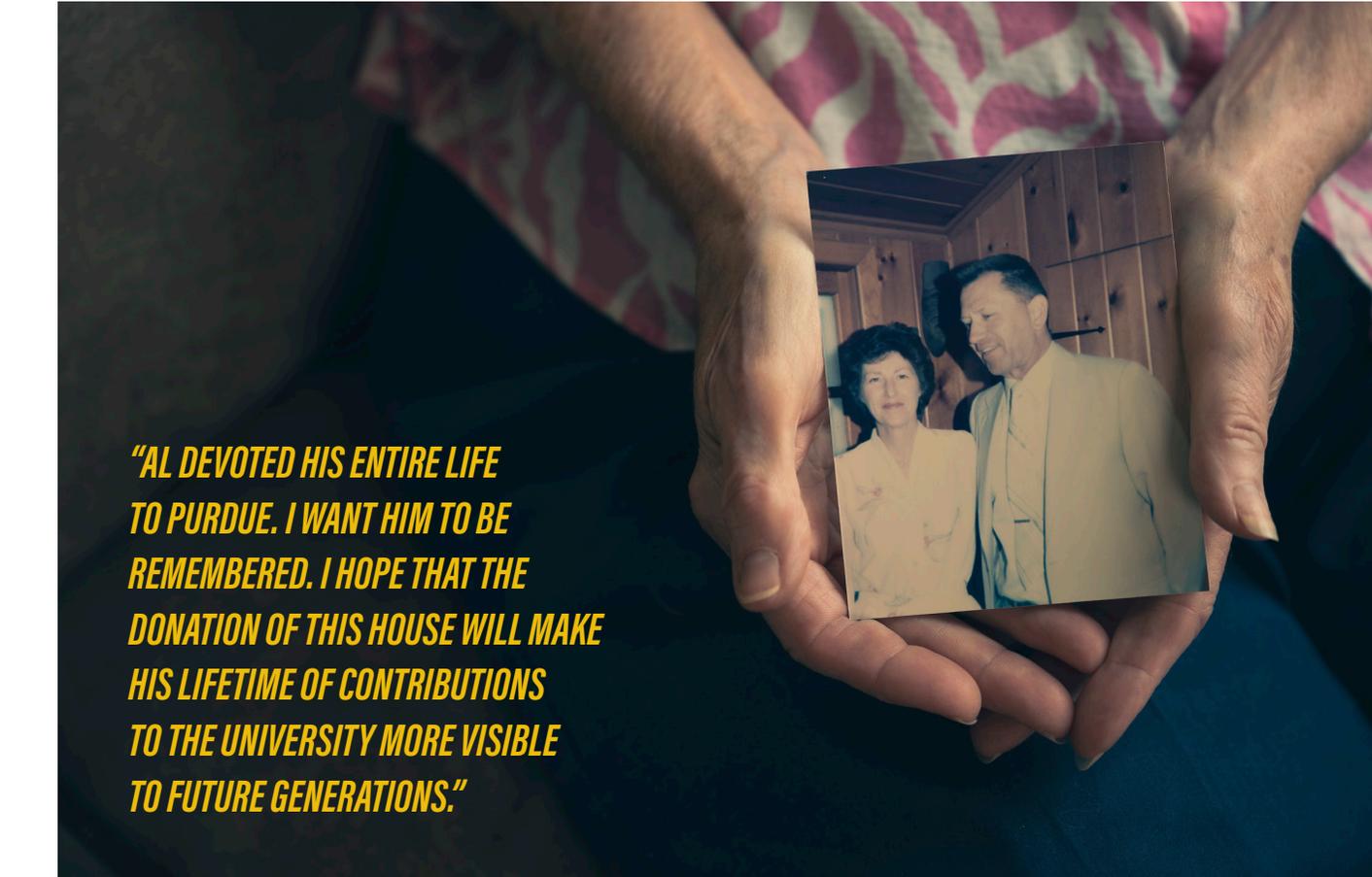
*Al Altschaeffl (third from left) with fellow civil engineering students.*



*Martha Altschaeffl on the stairs of her home, shortly after the couple moved in, in 1968.*



*Rao S. Govindaraju meets with Martha Altschaeffl in the living room of her home, which she is donating to the Lyles School of Civil Engineering.*



***"AL DEVOTED HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO PURDUE. I WANT HIM TO BE REMEMBERED. I HOPE THAT THE DONATION OF THIS HOUSE WILL MAKE HIS LIFETIME OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY MORE VISIBLE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS."***

## A LEGACY OF LOYALTY

Martha Altschaeffl's favorite space in the house is the living room. With textured walls, high ceilings, archways and ornate gates leading to the wooden staircase, the charming space exudes a cozy ambiance. The Altschaeffls are the third owners of the home.

"You live in a place long enough and you start to gather a lot of things," Martha Altschaeffl said. "I could not imagine leaving this house with all its 50 years of accumulated life. One day, I was sitting on the sofa in the living room and I thought, 'Why don't I give the house to Purdue in Al's memory?'"

After 50 years with a birds'-eye view of a bustling campus, Martha Altschaeffl now sits in her living room imagining how the next occupants will enjoy the house that she and Al made a home. A plaque will be installed in the house, recounting the impact of the Altschaeffls' shared Purdue legacy. But, as Martha will tell you, she's not doing this for herself. She's doing it for Al.

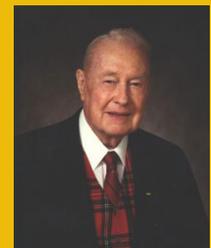
"Al devoted his entire life to Purdue," Martha Altschaeffl said. "I want him to be remembered. I hope that the donation of this house will make his lifetime of contributions to the University more visible to future generations."

## WAYS TO GIVE

Although the majority of gifts to support Purdue come in some form of cash, trust or planned and estate gifts, the Purdue for Life Foundation accepts gifts of all kinds, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds or personal property such as art, jewelry and real estate. Learn more at [purdueforlife.org/ways-to-give](https://purdueforlife.org/ways-to-give).

## R.B. STEWART SOCIETY

The R.B. Stewart Society recognizes special benefactors who make a commitment to the future of the University in their estate plan — regardless of the amount. In his 36 years as controller and later vice president and treasurer, Stewart introduced pioneering ways of expansion through trust gifts and interest-free bonds, enabling Purdue to grow its endowment immensely. In 1971, Stewart made a planned gift to Purdue by donating his home, Westwood. It has served as the home of Purdue's president ever since.



# EMBODYING A SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY



**Jim and Carol Cure to receive Crystal Boilermaker commemorating lifetime commitment to Purdue**

**J**im Cure understands how easy it is to get off track during the first few years as an engineering student. It happened to him.

“I got on academic probation and the army sent me a notice that I needed to report for a physical,” Cure said. “This was during the Vietnam War. I figured if I had to serve, I should learn a trade. I could get into an electronics program if I served in the Navy for four years, so that’s what I did.”

If it weren’t for getting off track, Cure may never have met Carol, his wife of 49 years. Cure’s mother introduced the couple at church in Martinsville, Indiana, Cure’s hometown. Carol served as program director for the area’s Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels. Cure just got out of the military and planned to re-enroll at Purdue. Their romance bloomed.

Following their wedding in 1973, the Cures spent their first two years living in married student housing at Purdue. After earning his degree, Cure landed a job with BMW Constructors in Indianapolis. A sixth-generation Oregonian, Carol yearned to return to the Pacific Northwest. They relocated to Oregon in 1979 and raised their family there, two daughters and one son, a Purdue graduate. Faith, family and philanthropy have been the cornerstones of their marriage.

“It’s fulfilling to help students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to benefit from a Purdue education,” said Cure, who is a second-generation Purdue graduate and president emeritus of Advanced Technology Group. “That’s why we’ve heavily supported the Civil Engineering Advisory Council Scholarship. This year we awarded three out of state students tuition for four years. I get a lot of satisfaction from helping them come to Purdue. Now it’s up to them to make the grades.”

Over the years, the Cures have committed more than \$9 million to Purdue to support the Lyles School of Civil Engineering, John Purdue Club, Purdue Polytechnic High School and University Residences. In recognition of their generosity, the Cures will be awarded the President’s Council Crystal Boilermaker, the highest honor presented to alumni and friends for private giving.

“I’ve been very blessed in my life and career with opportunities,” Cure said. “For the students who receive the gift of scholarship, I hope we instill a spirit of philanthropy in them. I want them to appreciate the value of their Purdue education and choose to give back to the University once they’re established in their careers. If one day, every qualified student received full-ride tuition based on their academics, that would be a wonderful thing.”



# MOLDING INDUSTRY LEADERS

## KIEWIT CORPORATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

A new partnership with Purdue Civil Engineering is designed not only to prepare students for their careers — but to become the next generation of leaders in their industries.

In 2022, Kiewit Corporation kicked off its newest program aimed at connecting Lyles School of Civil Engineering students with professionals. The goal, organizers said, is to not only enhance the students' practical experience, but teach them how to be a part of — and eventually lead — a team of engineers.

Kiewit Vice President Jim Rowings said this program is geared toward students who see themselves as future leaders and are willing to work hard to achieve their goals.

“The ideal students for this program are ones that have grit and have strived to overcome personal challenges,” Rowings said. “We’re looking for that student who wants to grow beyond just the technical curriculum and has leadership aspirations.”

The inaugural class is made up of 15 students — five sophomores, five juniors and five seniors — who went through a selection process that included written essays and in-person interviews. Students have taken part in multiple workshops and lectures to improve their résumés and interviewing skills as well

as taken part in team exercises to simulate real-life work environment projects and issues that require collaboration to solve.

Program member and civil engineering sophomore Sydney Kroon said the experiences and opportunities she has gained already have proven to be invaluable.

“This program has been a perfect fit for me and was exactly what I had been looking for since I came to Purdue,” Kroon said. “I have my eyes set on entering a field like construction where I can be in the field and serve as a project manager. I want to be out there and get involved — and this program has been perfect in giving me the chance to prepare for that exact type of situation.”

Rowings said he is already incredibly proud of the class and sees a bright future for both the program and the students involved.

“These students are such an accomplished group — and we are already planning ways to further expand the program to better prepare them,” he said. “It is our goal to see that these students — paired with an amazing Purdue education — have all the other tools necessary to not only be an immediate contributor to a company, but be seen as one of its future leaders.”



# IN LOVING MEMORY

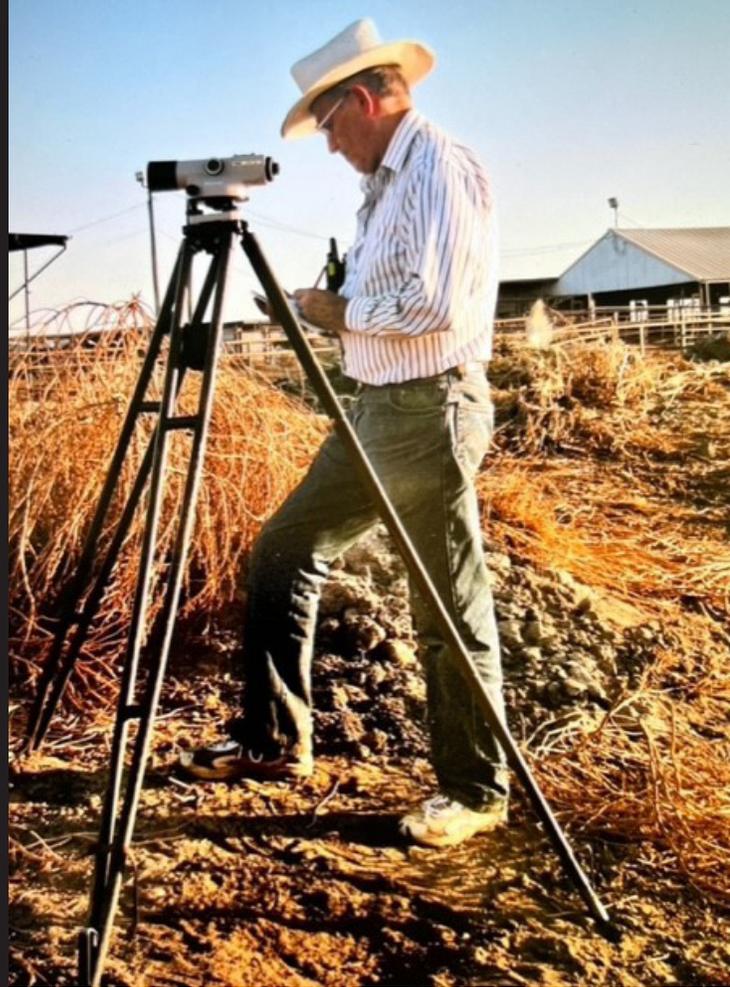
***FUND ESTABLISHED IN FAREED NADER'S NAME WILL HELP GRADUATE STUDENTS OVERCOME ADVERSITY***

Purdue Civil Engineering gave him a tremendous opportunity to succeed. Now, in his memory, a new fund for graduate students has been established to help do the same.

In 2022, the Lyles School of Civil Engineering and Rosemarie Nader established a new endowment in honor of Rosemarie's husband and Purdue University alumnus, Fareed Nader (PhD 1973). The aim of the endowment is to provide support for civil engineering graduate students — particularly those who have overcome adversity in their lives.

"I wanted this fund to go to those who may not have had the easiest path to earning their master's or PhD," Rosemarie Nader said. "Obviously, if they're at Purdue, they have already proven to be rather successful at overcoming adversity and so I want this to help them even further so they can continue to persevere and ultimately make an impact in the world."

After earning his PhD in surveying and mapping in 1973, Nader worked for the Federal Aviation Administration before beginning his 35-year teaching career. He taught surveying and photogrammetry at the University of Hawaii for five years before securing a position at California State University,



Fresno (CSUF) where he was a professor and taught geomatics engineering for 30 years.

During his career, Nader earned many accolades, including his appointment as the second chairman of the CSUF Department of Geomatics, organizing and overseeing the 1984 International Surveying Teachers' Conference held at CSUF. He was the recipient of numerous teaching awards including: Instructor of the Year Award in Surveying; Dean's Leadership Award for Outstanding Service to the School of Engineering and Computer Science; and California Land Surveyors' Association Honorary Land Surveyor's License No. 2. In 2008, he was named professor emeritus for geomatics engineering.

And while his career led him to the other side of the country, Purdue University was always near and dear to him, his wife said.

"I don't think a week went by where Fareed didn't bring up his time spent at Purdue," Rosemarie Nader said. "It was always first and foremost in his mind. And when he passed last year, I was just so touched when Purdue reached out as well as Dr. Mikhail. Purdue has always made us feel special and connected no matter how long it has been since we last visited and I will always appreciate that. I truly believe this endowment is what he would want and I cannot think of a better way to honor his memory and his love for Purdue."

# THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING

## SUMMER COURSE CHALLENGES HIGH SCHOOLERS TO DESIGN BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE

Is there a solution to game day parking woes? Dozens of high school students from across the country tackled this question as part of a capstone project that concluded the weeklong summer course Developing Tomorrow's Infrastructure: An Introduction to Civil Engineering. Working in teams, the students analyzed traffic patterns, parking availability and pedestrian routes to propose a redesigned campus infrastructure to better handle game traffic.

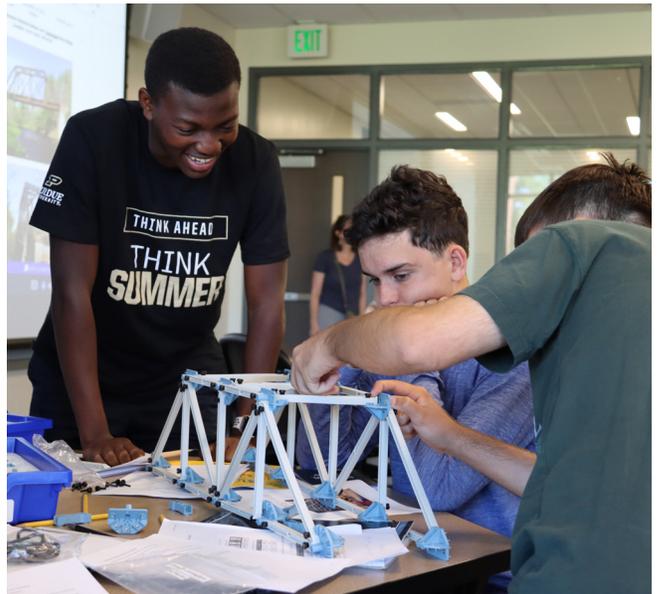
"We flew a drone over campus to capture images and render a 3D model of the area, which was really fun to execute," says Kira Day, a high school senior from Austin, Texas. "We also toured the athletic facilities which helped us have a better understanding of where congestion occurs."

Throughout the week, students participated in hands-on activities highlighting different disciplines within civil engineering. Sue Khalifah, student experience director, created and manages the program, supporting and guiding a team of doctoral student instructors. The goal is to introduce high schoolers to civil engineering at Purdue which provides teaching opportunities for graduate students who might work in academia.

"Through this experience, I learned I enjoy teaching more than I thought I did," says Abdullah Nafakh, a graduate research assistant and civil engineering PhD candidate. "We only have one week to connect with these students and build an environment that inspires them to pursue engineering. At the end of the program, they've learned some useful skills, possibly skills that will lead to a future career."

Because they are working on real-world problems, the ideas the students generate could potentially be implemented. Throughout the course, students gain a better understanding of how civil engineering shapes the future.

"Before taking this course, I thought of civil engineering as buildings and bridges," says Day. "Now I realize it encompasses geomatics, hydrology, transportation, and more. This course gave me a better understanding of what engineering entails so going forward, I'll be more prepared."



# RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Congratulations to our outstanding Lyles School of Civil Engineering alumni who were recognized with the Civil Engineering Alumni Achievement Award (CEAAA) and the Distinguished Engineer Alumni (DEA) Award. Our alumni have a long, proud history of excellence and this year's awardees could not be more deserving of these recognitions.

The 2022 CEAAA recipients were:

**Paul Amico (BSCE 1996)**

*Project Manager and Vice President, Carollo Engineers*

**John W. Brand (BSCE 1983)**

*President, Butler, Fairman and Seufert Civil Engineers Inc.*

**Sharon M. deMonsabert (PhD 1982)**

*President, Applied Engineering Management Corporation*

**John G. Hart (BSCE 1990)**

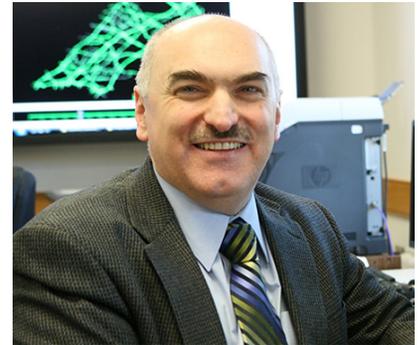
*Chairman of the Board, Peak Engineering, Inc.*

**Clifford J. Kassouf (BSCE 1975, MSCE 1976)**

*President, Triad Engineering and Contracting Co.*

**Ersal Ozdemir (BSCE 1997)**

*Chairman and CEO, Keystone Group*



## DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING ALUMNUS HANI MAHMASSANI

Hani Mahmassani (MSCE 1978), professor of civil and environmental engineering at Northwestern University, is recognized worldwide as a leading authority on transportation and related fields. His expertise is sought by government agencies, research organizations and universities around the globe. Mahmassani earned his PhD in transportation systems from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Among his many achievements is his work in defining and deploying the field of dynamic network modeling for urban areas. Mahmassani has made groundbreaking contributions to the design and operation of Intelligent Transportation Systems that enable better informed use of transportation networks. He has also pioneered research in network-level vehicular traffic theories and led research and development of sensor and communication technologies for real-time operation of intelligent transportation.

Mahmassani's work has received numerous accolades and recognition. Most recently, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional distinctions for an engineer. He was cited for "contributions to modeling of intelligent transportation networks and to interdisciplinary collaboration in transportation engineering."

# GREETINGS FROM ERIC PUTMAN

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER // LYLES SCHOOL OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

**A**s we close out 2022 and start the new year, the most important message I can share with you is “thank you.” All of us here in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering remain grateful for the many ways you demonstrate your commitment as Purdue alumni who Stay Connected, Get Involved and Give Back.

We remain grateful for all of the civil engineering friends and alumni who joined us on campus this year! My sense is that the pent-up demand for community remains high and the West Lafayette campus enjoyed a strong turnout throughout the fall semester.

The STAY CONNECTED mission of the Purdue for Life Foundation speaks to the value we find in the personal and professional relationships we have built across the Purdue community. To keep up with timely communication about events, accomplishments, and your fellow civil engineering alumni, I encourage you to follow the Lyles School of Civil Engineering on LinkedIn.

The challenge to GET INVOLVED includes Purdue alumni club participation, offers to speak to classes and even student mentoring. And this publication also allows us to share some of the stories of your fellow Boilermaker alumni who demonstrate special generosity as they GIVE BACK.

I invite you to bookmark April 26 on your calendar for the 2023 edition of Purdue Day of Giving as we celebrate broad support for the Lyles School of Civil Engineering. I hope you will join us as we look to meet new stretch goals this spring — and your involvement will make the difference!

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, the 602 undergraduate students and 447 graduate students enrolled in civil engineering this year are being well-trained to make their mark on the world. Their lives as Boilermakers are only beginning and over the course of their careers, each one will join a robust community of Purdue alumni who are expected to address great challenges around the world.

Many of you reading this magazine have made the principles of Purdue for Life your own. We are grateful that you have stayed connected. We are grateful that you have chosen to get involved. And we are incredibly appreciative of your decision to fund scholarships, support faculty and the research and teaching mission of Purdue.

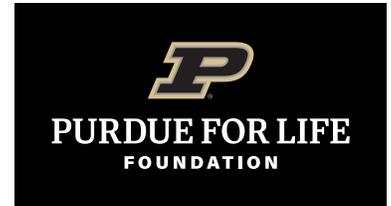
I hope you are encouraged to know you are making a difference in the lives of today's students, and I trust you will read and enjoy the insights on how much we value your partnership.

We continue to be grateful for you and if you would like to start a new conversation about how you can Stay Connected, Get Involved and/or Give Back, I invite you to email me at [EAPutman@purdueforlife.org](mailto:EAPutman@purdueforlife.org).

Hail Purdue — and Boiler Up!



Eric Putman  
Chief Development Officer, Lyles School of Civil Engineering  
University Development Office, Purdue for Life Foundation



“ All of us here in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering remain grateful for the many ways you demonstrate your commitment as Purdue Alumni who Stay Connected, Get Involved and Give Back. ”



**PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY**

Lyles School of Civil Engineering



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