

P.ENGs AND ENGINEERING STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

By Marika Bigongiari



Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., FEC, COO of Morrison Hershfield, won the Gold Medal Award from Engineers Canada.

Helen Wojcinski, P.Eng., FEC, president, Wojcinski & Associates Ltd., won the Meritorious Service Award for Community Service from Engineers Canada.

The 2019 Engineers Canada Award recipients were honoured at a gala in Quebec City, Quebec, in May. The awards highlight excellence in engineering achievement, as well as recognizing those with exceptional passion for the profession. Among this year’s winners are **Catherine Karakatsanis P.Eng., FEC**, chief operating officer of Morrison Hershfield and a past president of both PEO and Engineers Canada, winner of the Gold Medal Award; **Jennifer Drake, PhD, P.Eng.**, researcher and assistant professor in the department of civil and mineral engineering, cross-appointed with the John H. Daniels faculty of architecture, landscape and design at the University of Toronto, winner of the Young Engineer Achievement Award; and **Helen Wojcinski, P.Eng., FEC**, president, Wojcinski & Associates Ltd. and longtime PEO volunteer, winner of the Meritorious Service Award for Community Service.

Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO) hosted their 17th annual Ontario Consulting Engineering Awards gala in Kleinburg, Ontario, in April. The awards honour firms doing exceptionally innovative work in consulting engineering. Eleven awards were presented, with **John G. Cooke & Associates** taking home top honours with the Willis Chipman Award for their Ottawa, ON, Government Conference Centre Rehabilitation, a project that involved restoring a federal government building built in 1912 while maintaining its historical charm. Awards of Excellence were awarded to **AIA Engineers LLC** for the Highway 407 East Extension Phase 2A in the Region of Durham, ON; **Blackwell** for the Schulich School of Business Expansion in Toronto, ON; **Parsons** for the Fountain Street/Grand River Bridge Superstructure Replacement in the Region of Waterloo, ON; and **Hatch** for the Oxec II Hydroelectric Project in north central Guatemala. Awards of Merit were awarded to **Adjeleian Allen Rubeli Limited** for the Algonquin College DARE District in Ottawa, ON; **Robinson Consultants Inc.** for the Northwest Arm Trunk Sewer Rehabilitation in Halifax, Nova Scotia; **DST Consulting Engineers Inc.** for the New Gold Rainy River Mine Development in the Township of Chapple, ON; **Stantec** for the First Nations Infrastructure Resilience Toolkit and Pilot Projects; **AECOM** for the Dundas Connects–Dundas Street Corridor Master Plan in Mississauga, ON;



John G. Cooke & Associates accepts the Willis Chipman Award at the Ontario Consulting Engineering Awards for the Government Conference Centre Rehabilitation in Ottawa, ON. Left to right: Mary Cooke, John Cooke, P.Eng., Chris Vopni, P.Eng., Lisa Nicol, P.Eng., and Consulting Engineers of Ontario Chair Christine Hill, P.Eng. Photo: Consulting Engineers of Ontario

AWARDS

and **WSP** for the F.G. Gardiner Expressway Lower Simcoe Street (York–Bay–Yonge) Off Ramp in Toronto, ON.

Paul Fieguth, PhD, P.Eng., vice dean of the faculty of engineering, professor and department chair of the department of systems design engineering and a co-director of the Vision and Imaging Processing Lab at the University of Waterloo, has been recognized with a Distinguished Teacher Award for his enthusiastic passion for teaching and celebrated support of his students. The awards are given to exemplary teachers at the University of Waterloo, where four recipients are chosen annually.

Also at the University of Waterloo, world-class researcher and professor of engineering **Keith Hipel, PhD, P.Eng.**, has been awarded the prestigious 2019 Killam Prize by the Canada Council for the Arts. Hipel, who is also an officer of the Order of Canada, is one of five winners collecting a \$100,000 prize, which recognizes his unique approach and use of modelling tools to study water resources and the environment. The award is given annually to scholars in engineering, natural sciences, social sciences, health sciences and humanities.

University of Toronto Professor **Molly Shoichet, PhD, LEL**, has been inducted as a fellow of the Royal Society. Shoichet, who is the Canada research chair in tissue engineering, has been working diligently in the area of treating damage to nerve tissues, a treatment particularly critical in the instance of traumatic spinal cord injury and stroke. She is also an officer of the Order of Canada, a member of the Order of Ontario, a member of the US National Academy of Engineering and a past recipient of the aforementioned prestigious Killam Prize.

Essam Hussein, PhD, P.Eng., dean and professor in the faculty of engineering and applied sciences at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan, has been awarded the prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGS). Hussein, a registered professional engineer in the provinces of Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Ontario, works in developing peaceful uses of nuclear technology, including the detection of contraband material. The award is given by APEGS to those demonstrating technical excellence and achievement in engineering and/or geoscience in the province of Saskatchewan.

McMaster University's **Thomas Adams, PhD, P.Eng.**, an associate professor and associate chair (graduate) in the department of chemical engineering with a well-established track record of community building, has been named a University Scholar. Adams is one of six recipients of the prestigious award, valued at \$15,000 for each year of the award, up to a maximum of \$60,000. The award honours mid-career researchers and recognizes international scholars working tirelessly to promote excellence in education and pedagogy and who are devoted to the preservation of knowledge. Adams' area of expertise lies in green energy conversion, semicontinuous systems, process design, modelling and simulation and optimization. His primary research interests are in process systems engineering and the design, optimization and control of energy systems.

Assistant professor in the department of civil engineering at York University's Lassonde School of Engineering **Magdalena Krol, PhD, P.Eng.**, has won the 2019 Early Career Hydrogeologist Award. The award was given by the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) in recognition of Krol's dedication to the hydrogeological community and her continued contributions to the field, including her expertise in groundwater remediation. The IAH is a scientific and educational charitable organization for scientists, engineers and other professionals working in the fields of groundwater resource planning, management and protection, with a mission to further the understanding and protection of groundwater resources throughout the world.



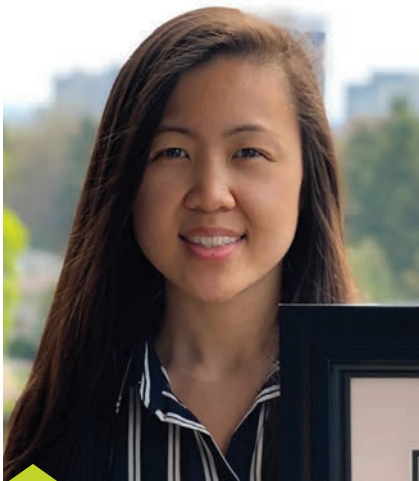
AIA Engineers LLC won an Award of Excellence at the Ontario Consulting Engineering Awards for the Highway 407 East Extension Phase 2A in the Region of Durham, ON.

WSP won an Award of Merit at the Ontario Consulting Engineering Awards for their F.G. Gardiner Expressway Lower Simcoe Street (York–Bay–Yonge) Off Ramp in Toronto, ON.



(Left) McMaster University's Thomas Adams, PhD, P.Eng., an associate professor and associate chair (graduate) in the department of chemical engineering, has been named a University Scholar by McMaster University.

(Right) Assistant professor in the department of civil engineering at York University's Lassonde School of Engineering Magdalena Krol, P.Eng., has won the 2019 Early Career Hydrogeologist Award.



University of Waterloo civil engineering graduate student Michelle Liu, EIT, has been recognized by the City of Waterloo for giving back to her community.



STUDENT AWARDS

University of Waterloo graduate student **Michelle Liu, EIT**, who is working towards her masters in civil engineering, has been recognized by the City of Waterloo for giving back to her community. Liu, who volunteers up to 40 hours per month in varying capacities both in and out of school, was presented with a certificate signed by Waterloo Mayor Dave Jaworsky. The hard-working engineering student divides her time between the Kitchener, ON, Grand River Hospital, where she spends much of her time at the hospital's cancer centre and oncology unit, and PEO, where she is the secretary of her local PEO chapter and works with its awareness programs to promote women in engineering.

Kritika Mehta, a third-year University of Waterloo biomedical engineering student, has won a \$5,000 scholarship, the Nellie Giffin Engineering Award, from the Canadian Memorial Foundation. The foundation, which was created in honour of the 14 women murdered at Polytechnique Montréal (then known as École Polytechnique) in Montreal, QC, in 1989, is dedicated to promoting females in engineering and provides scholarships to exceptional students who demonstrate leadership. The award recognizes Mehta—who actively works to encourage younger students who may be struggling to keep moving forward—as a role model for young women in engineering.

York University's Lassonde School of Engineering PhD student **Athina Peidou** has won the International Association of Geodesy Young Authors Award for her research paper *On the feasibility of using satellite gravity observations for detecting large-scale solid mass transfer events*, which analyzes the capability of satellites to detect landslides, especially those that are submarine. Peidou's research marks an important step towards understanding our planet's mechanisms.

University of Waterloo teaching assistant and PhD candidate in the department of mechanical and mechatronics engineering **Apratim Chakraborty** has won an Amit and Meena Chakma Award for Exceptional Teaching by a Student. Chakraborty is being honoured for his exceptional dedication to his students and is one of four recipients of the award at the university.

The McMaster University faculty of engineering has announced its inaugural Co-op Student of the Year award recipients. The awards mark the first time engineering students have been recognized for both their academic and professional work. The first-time recipients of the award include **Noelle Wilton**, a chemical and bioengineering student placed at BioMarin Pharmaceuticals in Marin County, California, and **Abraham Omorogbe**, a software engineering and management student placed at Microsoft in Bellevue, Washington.

Humber College won the 2019 National Engineering Month (NEM) College Student Challenge. The competition invites students at colleges across Ontario to host events during NEM to compete for prizes and complimentary memberships to the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists. Humber's team planned a community outreach event—themed "There's a place for you in engineering"—aimed at getting girls interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. The successful event offered two workshops that afforded female students the chance to build their own circuit board and have fun doing it. [e](#)