

2023 Awards Banquet JANUARY 26, 2023 | MACQUEEN ALUMNI CENTER





5 p.m.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

6:30 p.m.
INVOCATION / DINNER

7 p.m.

AWARDS PROGRAM

WELCOME / SPONSOR & COMMITTEE RECOGNITION MARK NORRIS, MACE CHAIRMAN

AWARDS PRESENTATION
RAY MILLER, MACE AWARDS CHAIR

SOCIETY AWARDS

DISCIPLINE AWARDS

INDIVIDUAL OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

MACE-RABURN/USA ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

Closing Remarks



ASCE Outstanding Engineer RYAN HEDLUND, P.E.

Ryan Hedlund is a Bridge Project Manager with HDR. With more than ten years of experience in bridge design and project management, Ryan has worked on projects across the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Louisiana State University.

Ryan is a Past President of the Mobile Branch of ASCE who served in multiple officer positions over

a five-year term. His proudest accomplishments include hosting the Alabama Section of ASCE Winter meeting in Mobile, updating the Branch's bylaws and keeping the Branch active through the midst of Covid.

Ryan and his wife Kat are raising their two children, Theo, 9, and Anna, 4, in West Mobile, and he appreciates all their love and support.



SAME Outstanding Engineer DERRICK ROGERS, P.G.

Derrick Rogers, P.G., is the Operations Manager for Tetra Tech's Mobile, Alabama, office. He is a Mobile native and a graduate of the University of South Alabama. He also serves as a Senior Project Manager with over 14 years of professional experience in the environmental consulting industry. The emphasis of Mr. Rogers' experience is in hydrogeology, contaminant fate and transport, natural attenuation evaluation, and

remediation system design/evaluation. He has managed and served as a technical lead for complex CERCLA and RCRA environmental investigation and remediation projects dealing with a wide range of contaminants for a variety of Department of Defense (DoD) customers, such as the Navy, Air Force, and Army. Over the past several years, Mr. Rogers' primary focus has been supporting DoD clients with multifaceted investigations and negotiating an ever-changing regulatory climate for emerging contaminants, such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS). Mr. Rogers has been an active participant on numerous Navy and Air Force Partnering Teams to facilitate the environmental programs and ensure stakeholders needs are addressed.

Mr. Rogers has been a member of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) since 2010, where he has received unmatched opportunities for professional, personal, and leadership growth. He attributes much of his career advancement to the networking and skills attained through SAME.

Mr. Rogers enjoys spending his free time on Dauphin Island with his wife and two sons, boating, fishing, or just enjoying a day at Sand Island!



Aerospace Engineer of the Year ANGEL HUOT

Angel is currently working as a Senior Engineer at the Airbus Engineering Center in Mobile, Alabama. In her role as a Retrofit Solutions Engineer, she develops complex engineering and certification solutions for aircraft interiors upgrades. Angel began her career with Airbus as an Intern in 2011 and has grown to be a vital part of Upgrades Engineering organization ever since.

Angel's career thus far is filled with some of the most complex and largest projects accomplished by Airbus globally. Initially learning through a complex fleet upgrade for JetBlue, Angel started building her technical repertoire through this long term project. Transitioning to a mega American Airlines deal consisting of over 200 aircraft, Angel was able to develop and identify technically challenging solutions for an interior that was bespoke for American. Angel currently leads a massive fleet restructuring project Avianca, one of the oldest airlines in the world. Her work in modular engineering has paid dividends on this program, enabling Airbus to meet a demanding customer's lead time expectations. She currently holds many technical delegations within Airbus, and often supports incubation of forward leaning digitization and automation initiatives within Airbus throughout the US and Europe.

Angel was born in Massachusetts, but at a young age moved to southern Alabama with her family. With a passion for math and science, she pursued her BS in Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Alabama. She initially joined Airbus as a summer intern in the summer of 2011. Her hard work and dedication through the extended internship, ultimately landed her a full time role as a Cabin Realization Engineer. A few years later, Angel returned to USA to pursue her Masters in Mechanical Engineering, graduating magna cum laude in her program. She is an avid nature enthusiast, and spends her free time camping, hiking, and exploring national parks, both domestically and abroad.









Chemical Engineer of the Year Brent D. Barnes, P.E.

Brent Barnes, PE, Process Engineering Resource Leader at Hargrove Engineers & Constructors, graduated from the University of Tennessee and has over fifteen years of process design and engineering experience in the refining, chemical, and nuclear industries. Brent has worked on projects scaling from small studies for private start-ups to a multibillion-dollar government

mega-project. Outside of work, Brent devotes time to his family as a husband and father of four. Brent is an active and devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and serves his community through participation in church. Brent's roles at church are varied and have included organizing disaster response command centers along the Gulf Coast, providing administrative support for church leadership in the lower Alabama area, and even playing piano and organ during worship services.



Civil Engineer of the Year NATALIE FRENCH, P.E.

Natalie French, PE, Structural Engineering Leader at Hargrove Engineers & Constructors, is a graduate of the University of South Alabama with over thirteen years of experience in structural engineering. She has served as the Structural Discipline Lead on projects in the refining, chemical, and heavy manufacturing industries ranging in size up to \$500MM Total Installed Cost.

Her technical experience also includes project management, on-site construction management, interoffice project execution (virtual teaming), and multi-discipline engineering design. As the Department Leader, she is generally responsible for the supervision and technical direction over Hargrove's structural engineering team including total delivery of structural services on time, within performance budget, and meeting quality expectations. As the Department Leader, she works to manage, grow, and mentor over 35 structural teammates to perform at a high level and achieve success. Natalie and her husband, Chandler, are parents to a three-year-old son, Bobby, and a soon to be one-year-old daughter, Hattie. Natalie enjoys spending time with her family, being an active member of her church, and serving as mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama.



Electrical Engineer of the Year JAMES DUNNING, P.E.

James Dunning, PE, Electrical Engineering Leader at Hargrove Engineers & Constructors, graduated cum laude from the University of South Alabama in the Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu, and Mortar Board honor societies. He holds over fourteen years' experience in electrical engineering, specializing in the power sector. He currently leads a team of engineers and designers. His design support includes medium and low voltage

electrical equipment specifications, switchgear and MCC replacements, cable sizing, cable tray/conduit sizing and routing, cogeneration systems, overhead power line design, fuse sizing and installation. He also serves as Arc Flash Program Leader, which includes overseeing proposals and studies done in the field of Arc Flash/Power, assisting not only the Mobile office, but many Hargrove locations throughout the country. He has performed arc flash analysis, protective device coordination, short circuit, and electrical load flow studies, leading multiple training sessions focusing on arc flash and safety. He is licensed as a Professional Electrical Engineer in six (6) states and with the NCEES.







Marine Engineer/ Naval Architect of the Year Spencer Johnson

Spencer Johnson is a marine engineer and naval architect for Austal USA where he is responsible for the development of ship designs for all new concept, preliminary, and contract design projects. As Chief Naval Architect, Johnson provides leadership for a department of over 50 structural engineers, naval architects, and

designers, all of whom are responsible for the design of some of the Nation's most complex surface vessels, including the U.S. Navy's Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ship and the Spearhead-class Expeditionary Fast Transport.

Johnson has nearly 30 years of experience and has been integral to Austal USA's success since joining the company in 2007. Prior to joining Austal USA, Johnson led teams of engineers in the structural design, refit and repair of yachts, research vessels, and pilot boats. Johnson has a Bachelor of Science in naval architecture and marine engineering from the prestigious Webb Institute. He is an active member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.





Mechanical Engineer of the Year JUSTIN THIBODEAUX, P.E.

Justin received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Mississippi State University. He has nine years of experience as an Engineer and eight years of experience as a Project Manager at Gulf States Engineering, Inc. (GSE). He is licensed in Alabama, Mississippi, and Nevada.

During his time at GSE, Justin has gained experience in a broad range of projects in the

commercial, industrial, and governmental areas. He is knowledgeable in standard commercial mechanical design as well as specialized chilled water, variable air volume, and variable refrigerant designs. He also has experience in fire suppression, fire alarm, and life safety design.

Justin has been the project manager for projects ranging from office buildings to multi-story condominiums, restaurants, government facilities and manufacturing plants; many of them from repeat clients who note his multi-discipline experience as a benefit to their projects.

While at GSE, Justin initiated a partnership with Lynn Meadows Discovery Center. He helped create a STEM Learning Center for young students in the Mobile and Gulfport areas. In his spare time, Justin enjoys spending quality time with his two children and wife, Rachel.







Engineering Manager of the Year ROBERT MATTHEW COAKER, P.E.

Matt joined Southern Earth Sciences, Inc. (SES) in May 2005 upon completion of his Civil Engineering degree from the University of South Alabama in 2004. He began as an engineer intern and hit the ground running, diligently working his way up the ranks within the company. Matt has served as a Project Engineer, Geotechnical Department Manager, and in 2017 was appointed Regional

Manager (Alabama/Mississippi) and a Vice President of the Company.

Matt provides principal oversight on all geotechnical and subsurface investigation work for the Mobile branch, and often provides engineering assistance for SES offices in Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana. He has served as the Geotechnical Engineer of Record on hundreds of projects from small commercial ventures for private entities to large-scale industrial and governmental complexes. His leadership for each has contributed substantially to the growth and sustainability of the Mobile area over his 18-year career.

Matt maintains active licenses in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida. He currently oversees thirteen direct reports, and has mentored several engineer interns over the years, providing each with a strong foundation in which to obtain their professional engineer license. His organization affiliations include ASCE, GBA, AGC, AGC's CLC, and he is a lifetime member of the USA National Alumni Association. In the rare times Matt isn't working, he can be found on the water, in the woods, or working on renovating his home on Dauphin Island.





MOBILE AREA COUNCIL OF ENGINEERS ENGINEERING MANAGER OF THE YEAR

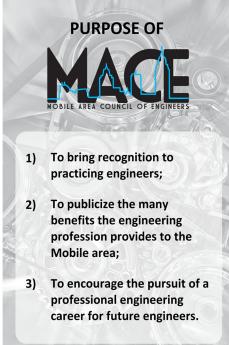


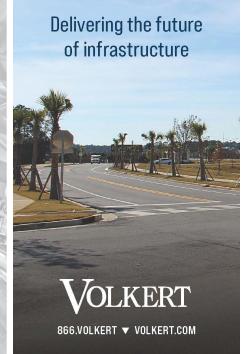
Individual of Special Recognition WARREN H. NICHOLSON

Mr. Warren Nicholson earned a BSEE degree from the University of South Alabama College of Engineering in 1982 and the first MSEE degree from the USA Electrical Engineering graduate program in 1989. He was the president of the IEEE Student Branch in his senior year and was inducted into Eta Kappa Nu (HKN) Electrical Engineering Honor society.

Mr. Nicholson was the Founder, President, and CEO of N-Tron Corporation and he is currently the CEO/President, and Founder of Nfina Technologies, a computer design, manufacturing, and cloud storage server company. In addition to his significant contributions to the profession as an engineer, he has also made significant investments in engineering education, supporting future engineering professionals by establishing the first endowed professorship in Computer Engineering and numerous scholarships with substantial gifts to the University of South Alabama.

Mr. Nicholson is deeply involved in volunteering and serving the engineering profession. He was the Chair of the IEEE SoutheastCon 2022 held in Mobile, Alabama, in April 2022, bringing students and technical professionals together to present their research work and to display commercial products. Under his leadership, SoutheastCon 2022 was a major success, showcasing the City of Mobile and the State of Alabama.





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Engineering Educator of the Year DR. ROBERT J. CLOUTIER

Dr. Rob Cloutier is a Professor, Systems Engineering Ph.D. Program Chair, and Graduate Director for the College of Engineering at the University of South Alabama (USA). He is currently managing a \$3.7M research project with the U.S. Navy. The systems engineering program at USA has increased 6X in size since Dr. Cloutier arrived at USA in 2006. The program has awarded 12 PhD and 8 MS degrees, and currently has close to 60 graduate students. Roughly 50% of these students are working engineers coming back for advanced degrees.

Dr. Cloutier is also the editor in chief for the System Engineering Body of Knowledge (https://www.sebokwiki.org) which receives >35k unique visitors and >85k page views per month.

His interests include systems architecting, model-based systems engineering, and digital transformation.

Before joining USA, Dr. Cloutier was an Associate Professor and Director of Systems & Software Programs at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ. Prior to Stevens, he spent over 20 years at Lockheed Martin and The Boeing Company (where he was an Associate Technical Fellow). His professional roles included system architect, enterprise architect, and principal systems engineer. Dr. Cloutier served eight years in the U.S. Navy & Navy Reserve. He received his BS from the U.S. Naval Academy, his MBA from Eastern University, and his Ph.D. from Stevens Institute of Technology.

















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MACE-Raburn Engineering Scholarship Recipients

The MACE-Raburn Engineering Scholarship was established in 2003 by the USA College of Engineering, Dr. Red Raburn, and the Mobile Area Council of Engineers to provide tuition assistance for outstanding engineering students at the University of South Alabama. This year, MACE is extremely proud to announce each recipient will receive a \$3,700 scholarship.



LAURA NGUYEN

Laura Nguyen is in her junior year at South Alabama. She graduated from D'Iberville High School and is from D'Iberville, Mississippi. Her ultimate objective is to complete her undergraduate studies in Chemical Engineering and receive her degree. She is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and Omega Chi Epsilon. Her post-graduate objective is to relocate to Houston, Texas, and work in the oil refinery industry after South.



DARIAN RILEY

Darian Riley is a Mechanical Engineering major from Montgomery, Alabama, where he attended Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School. He is the son of Daniel and Anissa Riley and the youngest of three brothers (Daniel Riley Jr. and Dylon Riley). Darian plans to use his degree to pursue his childhood interest to work on the engines and aerodynamic design of high performance cars. Darian says, "I was always building things when I was little, and whenever I would ride with my parents, every now and then I would see a fast car drive by like a Camaro, Corvette, Porsche, etc., and the moment I saw those cars, my eyes would light up, and I would ask myself, 'How are they able to go so fast, and why do they look so good?' Questions like those are what led me to attend this university and pursue a degree that will enable me to finally get those answers."

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Young Engineer of the Year CHARLES WILLIAM ROSS BYERLY, P.E.

Charles "Ross" Byerly, P.E. currently serves as the Technical Specialist for the Water and Wastewater Technical Center of Expertise for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District. He has been with USACE for almost 15 years and is a licensed Professional Engineer in Alabama. His expertise in the field of water and wastewater engineering enables him to provide technical

engineering advice relative to all aspects of design, construction, and operations and maintenance of water and wastewater systems for Military, Civil Works, and Support for Others projects globally within USACE. Ross has worked throughout the United States and in various parts of the world providing engineering expertise for water and wastewater treatment systems, distribution systems, collection systems, and pumping systems. Furthermore, his entire professional career has been within the Water and Wastewater community. Specifically, the Technical Center of Expertise (TCX) where he has served as a Design Engineer, Engineering Technical Lead, and temporarily served as Chief of the Water and Wastewater TCX and Civil Site Section, where he supervised 14 engineers and technicians. Ross was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of South Alabama and he is among a select few to graduate from the USACE South Atlantic Division Regional Leadership Development Program (2021) and the local Mobile District Leadership Development Program (2018), Outside of work, he is an active member of Haven Woods Baptist Church and a T-Ball coach at Semmes Baseball Park. He lives in Semmes, Alabama, with his wife Kelley. They are the proud parents of three children, Jackson (5), Lyla (3), and Lacey (5 months).



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MAGE HOBILE AREA COUNCIL OF ENGINEERS

A tradition since 1967, MACE was founded by practicing engineers from the local society chapters. Those founders envisioned an organization that exchanged information specifically of interest to engineers practicing in the Mobile area.

In addition, they saw the need to recognize their peers. Over time, MACE grew to include an annual awards banquet and set up an endowment to award engineering scholarships to further promote the field of engineering.

ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

American Society of Civil Engineers

Mobile Branch - ASCE | 2nd Wednesday
Contact: Daniel McGough, President | dmcgough@soearth.com

American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Gulf Coast Section - ASME | www.asme.org

Alabama Society of Professional Engineers

Mobile Chapter - ASPE | 1st Wednesday Contact: Melissa O'Sullivan, President | melissa.osullivan@volkert.com

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

Mobile Section - IEEE | 3rd Tuesday
Contact: Mohammad Yusef El-Sharkh, President | yel-shark@southalabama.edu

International Society of Automation

Mobile Section - ISA | Monthly Contact: Sean Phillips, President | sphillips@hargrove-epc.com

Society of American Military Engineers

Mobile Post - SAME | 3rd Wednesday Contact: Raleigh Price, President | rprice@sslarch.com

University of South Alabama

Engineering Student Council | Monthly Contact: Eric Steward, Ph.D., P.E. | esteward@southalabama.edu

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
ASHRAE | www.ashrae.org



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Engineer of the Year Past Recipients

Lloyd L. Pitts	2022	Bill L. Roberson	1993
Roy Duncan	2020	Lynn C. Doyle	1991
Emory Baya	2018	J. Earnest Farnell	1990
Ray Miller	2017	Stanley H. Houston	1989
Tom Wade	2016	James R. Couey	1988
William J. Knapp	2015	T. Keith King	1987
Tim E. Patton	2014	James L. Busby	1986
William Walter Bolton	2012	Thomas J. Terrell	1985
David M. Webber	2011	Harold V. Rodriguez	1984
Dr. James E. Laier	2010	Charles G. Munden	1983
John W. Steadman	2009	Norman J. Walton, Sr.	1982
Henry R. Seawell, III	2008	Col. Robert H. Ryan	1981
Francis M. Donovan, Jr.	2007	Marion H. Wilkins	1980
Douglas C. Otto, Jr.	2006	Thomas K. Peavy	1979
Scott L. Douglass	2005	James S. Philip	1978
Anthony L. Palmer	2004	Frank C. Deming	1977
Kathryn Ann Wilhelm	2003	A.L. Pardue	1976
Lanier S. Cauley	2002	Donald L. Smith	1975
Rodney W. Summerford	2001	E.L. Rivenbark	1974
Robert W. Barber	2000	H. Minge Reed, Jr.	1973
Guy E. O'Connor	1999	E.A. Drago	1972
J. R. Ehlenberg	1998	Kenneth C. Roberts	1971
George K. Chandler	1997	Robert Earl Pride	1970
Richard F. Beirne	1996	Wayne F. Palmer, Sr.	1969
Toby E. Gurley	1995	Gen. W. K. Wilson, Jr.	1968
Nathaniel D. McClure IV	1994	Harry E. Myers, Sr.	1967

Young Engineer of the Year Past Recipients

Jordan Stringfellow	2022	Steven D. Stewart	2009
Alex Smith	2020	Angela O'Connor	2007
Abdulai Abdul-Majeed	2019	Kendall L. Kilpatrick	2006
Andrew E. James	2018	Scott S. O'Briant	2005
Justin McDonald	2017	Scott A. Hardy	2004
R.J. Gonzales, III	2016	Melinda D. Immel	2003
Jason B. Krick	2015	David M. Webber	2002
Kenneth W. Nichols	2014	J. T. Little	2001
Angela Yvonne Nolan	2012	D. Mark Poore	2000
Bobby Odom, Jr.	2011	Kathy R. Speight	1999
Scott Peach	2010	Robert C. Roubion	1998

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MACE Mission Statement

The mission of the Mobile Area Council of Engineers (MACE) is to coordinate and promote engineering interests of the member organizations, which can be best performed by cooperative action in relation to professional, educational, civic and social matters.



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