

The Wind Engineer



American Association
for Wind Engineering

Americas Conference on Wind Engineering (ACWE) expands its legacy to St. Louis, Missouri



The conference was chaired by Dr. Grace Yan, a Professor of Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T). On May 16, as the local organizing committee worked tirelessly to prepare for the conference, St. Louis offered its own dramatic welcome—by “arranging” for a devastating EF-3 tornado to sweep through the Greater St. Louis area, resulting in \$1.6 Billion in property loss.

This tornado simply reminded that we, wind engineers, still have a lot of work to do, to reduce the adverse impact of extreme winds; This tornado made the theme of this conference feel less like a topic—and more like a mission, an urgent mission: *Promote advanced research and practice to better confront the grand challenge of wind hazards, which includes the improvement of building codes for diverse wind conditions*; This tornado reaffirmed to society the critical importance of our wind engineering community in protecting lives and fortifying community resilience.

This conference started with the welcome remarks by Drs. Claudio Borri (IAWE president), Dorothy Reed (former AAWE president) and Kamal Khayat (Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation of Missouri S&T). This conference featured keynote speeches by Drs. Ahsan Kareem, Jane Smith, Xugang Hua, Ruby Leung, John von de Lindt and Greg Kopp (in the order of presenting). The Peter Irwin Lecture this year was delivered by Dr. Peter Vickery, titled *Dr. Barry Vickery: The Legacy of a Pioneer in Wind Engineering*. Following months of careful study of his father’s work, with a heart full of love, Dr. Peter Vickery spoke about the groundbreaking and pivotal contributions of Dr. Barry Vickery, a true pioneer in wind engineering. This is an amazing way for a son to memorize his dear father.

Continued on next page

ACWE Recap Cont'd

Seven workshops, panel discussions and professional development were organized by experts in various fields. All conference attendees happily networked with each other with red/white wine from Day 0, and presented their exciting research from Day 1 to Day 3 (242 abstracts were received). Before the banquet on Day 2, 286 conference attendees happily danced together to record this historical moment, as shown by the “W” photo that represents “Wind”. This “W” is filled with people from 14 countries and regions. This conference offers a platform for participants to engage in conversations on collaborating with each other to address the grand challenge of wind hazards together.

The conference chair did take care of all the details, from the metal, arch design of name badges, to the text growing lanyards, to the poetic conference program around the word of “wind”, to the selection of gifts to attendees, to the setting of each conference room, to the selection of snacks and meals, to the blues band and dance party, and to the scenario photo taking, etc. However, the chair did not get a chance to prepare anything for the occurring of the devastating 2025 St. Louis Tornado. To her own surprise—and with no regrets—the chair successfully secured two large shuttles and organized field trips to tornado-damaged sites, offering conference attendees a rare opportunity to witness a “live experiment” in tornado–city interaction, which is a billion-dollar, full-scale testing set up by mother nature.

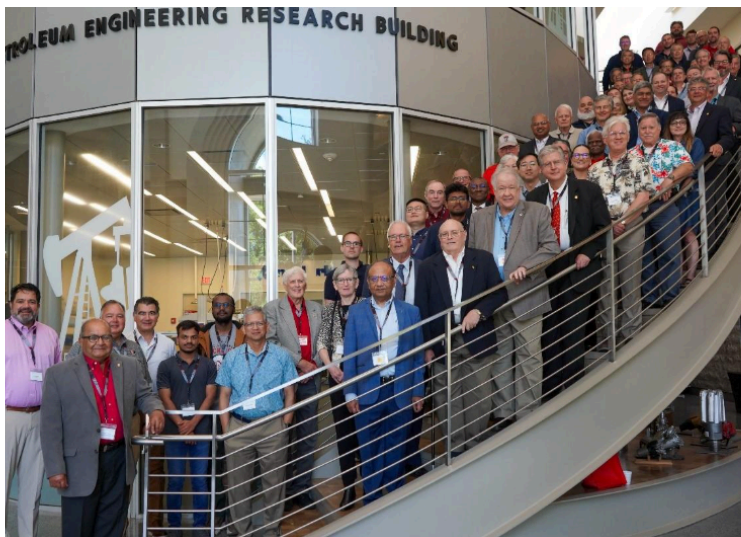


The chair wants to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of conference attendees, all conference sponsors/exhibitors, all local organizing committee members, and numerous volunteers from Missouri S&T, as well as IAWWE and AAWE, for their contribution to the success of this conference in various ways. The chair wants to extend her gratitude to Missouri S&T for her generosity and strong support.

The opening ceremony, the keynote lectures and the Peter Irwin Lecture were recorded and can be found at the following webpage. <https://15acwe.mst.edu/program/> .

News and Updates Cont'd

Wind Science Symposium Hosted at Texas Tech University



A symposium on Wind Science and Engineering: Research, Education, and Practice in honor of Kishor Mehta was held at Texas Tech on June 11, 2025. Invited 80 participants included consequential investigators and practitioners in wind related subjects from overseas as well from across the nation. These individuals have been involved in working with Kishor as colleagues, mentors or mentees during his fifty-five years of professional life related to wind. Keynote addresses were presented by John Holmes from Australia and Yukio Tamura from Japan.

In addition, Greg Kopp from Canada presented a technical talk. Wind science and engineering community was well represented including AAWE past Presidents Dorothy Reed and Murray Morrison and current Board Members Forrest Masters and Delong Zuo. Fifteen presentations on themes of field experiments, post-storm studies, tornado winds, codification of wind loads, and multi-disciplinary education encompassed the current cutting-edge research and practice in each of the areas. Kishor in his closing remarks thanked everybody for participating in the Symposium (group photo shows most of them) and said, “It has been a great ride for me. I see the future of wind research and development very bright. It is the people who will make it successful for the benefit of the society”.

The Symposium was sponsored by the National Wind Institute and Civil Engineering Department at Texas Tech. The organizing committee included John Schroeder, Marc Levitan, Delong Zuo, and Andrew Jackson.



News and Updates

Building Bridges in Wind Engineering: The US–Japan Workshop

The 7th US - Japan Workshop on Wind Engineering was held at Setsunan University, Osaka, Japan, on August 21-23, 2025. The meeting was organized by Professor Okuda (Setsunan University, Chairman) and Professor Luca Caracoglia (Northeastern University, co-Chairman). The event was co-supported by AAWE and JAWE (Japanese Association for Wind Engineering).

The meeting was attended by six US-side participants and twenty Japanese-side participants. The six participants from the USA, who are also members of AAWE, made presentations about tornado/thunderstorm research, bridge and cable aerodynamics, CFD and wind tunnel experimental methods. As part of this meeting, a technical visit to the Akashi - Kaikyo Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in the world, was organized (see photos).



Honoring AAWE Award Winners

The American Association for Wind Engineering (AAWE) is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of its members through a series of prestigious awards.

1. Winner of “2022 Best Journal Paper Award”: Monica Arul from Virginia Tech
2. Winner of “2023 Best Journal Paper Award”: Shaopeng Li from University of Louisiana at Lafayette
3. Winner of “Richard Marshall Award”: Haitham A. Ibrahim for his doctoral thesis completed at Florida International University
4. Winner of “Robert Scanlan Award”: Fei Ding for her doctoral thesis completed at University of Notre Dame
5. Winner of “Michael Gaus Distinguished Service Award”: Tracy Kijewski-Correa at University of Notre Dame

Dr. Miguel Cid Montoya and doctoral candidate Omar Mures recognized with EACWE 2025 PhD Award

Dr. Miguel Cid Montoya, Assistant Professor in the Glenn Department of Civil Engineering, and his collaborator and doctoral candidate, Omar Mures, received the prestigious EACWE 2025 PhD Award at the 9th European-African Conference on Wind Engineering in Trondheim, Norway. Their paper, “Extreme Compression of URANS Flow Data,” co-authored with Sumit Verma and Ashutosh Mishra, was honored for advancing aerodynamic data processing.

News and Updates Cont'd

Down Under Update

The Australasian Wind Engineering Society (AWES) will be holding its 23rd Workshop at Queenstown, New Zealand, from 18 to 20 February 2026. Included will be an educational Wind Loading Day and some likely tours to Insol at Invercargill and White Hill Wind Farm. The venue will be the QT Hotel in Queenstown. This summer sojourn to a picturesque lakeside mountain ski town will give opportunities for hiking, mountain biking and boating for any North American visitors looking for a solid vacation excuse! The key organizers are Amir Pirooz (amir.pirooz@niwa.co.nz) and Pierre Verhaeghe (pierre@holmesgroup.com) if you have any specific queries or would like to be on their AWES Workshop mailing list.

The AWES Board has increased the value of the AWES Research Grant to 10,000 AU\$. It is available for Australian and New Zealand research efforts benefiting universities or companies. So, any North American teams, with Australian or New Zealand research AWES colleagues, could consider where this opportunity may fit in. This funding is intended to aid in filling knowledge “holes” in Australian Standards or wind-engineering Quality Assurance Manuals, with obvious flow on to other jurisdictions. Contact Leighton Cochran (leighton57@me.com) for a PDF of the announcement.

The AWES Board has recently released two new Quality Assurance Manuals to add to the updated 2019 Wind Engineering Studies of Buildings QAM. All three are available for free on the AWES website (www.awes.org).

- QAM1: Wind Engineering Studies of Buildings (2019)
- QAM2: Full-Scale Wind Testing of Components of Building Envelopes and Architectural Features (2024)
- QAM3: Computational Wind Engineering (2024)

Leighton Cochran
Chairman, Australasian Wind Engineering Society

News From IAWE

IAWE Mini-Symposium 20 on "Recent Advances in Dynamic Response and Aerodynamic Performances of Super-Long-Span Bridges", organized by C. Borri, Y.-J. Ge, O. Øiseth, at EURODYN 2026, 13th International Conference on Structural Dynamics, 27/9-1/10 2026, Hannover, Germany. Submit abstract by: October 31, 2025. Visit [website](#)

Announcements

AAWE Best Journal Paper Award for 2024 - Call for Nominations

The American Association for Wind Engineering is pleased to announce the Best Paper Award nominations for 2024.'

AAWE Best Journal Paper Award for 2024

The Best Journal Paper Award recognizes the contributions to Wind Engineering from an AAWE Member for the best journal paper within the 2024 calendar year. This prestigious award honoring AAWE member(s) is presented annually. Award is accompanied by a certificate and a prize of \$250.

Requirements

- The Applicant must be an AAWE member in good standing, and half (a simple majority) of the authorship of the paper must be comprised of AAWE members in good standing.
- The Applicant must have published a paper in a refereed journal within the calendar year 2024 for AAWE Best Journal Paper Award for 2024, according to the DOI number of the publication.
- The journal paper must be on a topic related to Wind Engineering.

Application

- Self-nominations as well as nominations for other Authors are welcome.
- Applicants or Nominators should submit
 - a one-page cover letter to briefly explain the paper's uniqueness and contribution,
 - a 3-page resume of the main Author or corresponding author, and
 - a copy of the journal paper under consideration for this award.
- Please send all nominations/applications to the AAWE Awards Committee Chair Prof. Delong Zuo, by sending an email to info@aawe.org with the subject line 'AAWE Best Journal Paper Award for 2024'

Nominations/applications are due by October 31, 2025

****Note:** Applications that do not meet the requirements above will not be reviewed. **

Announcements Cont'd

Special Elections - AAWE President Elect Call for Nominations

The American Association for Wind Engineering is announcing the launching of special elections to elect the next President Elect of the AAWE. Nominations of candidates are requested.

The President-Elect shall, in the event of the absence or disability of the President, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President, and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors shall from time to time prescribe. The president Elect will serve for two years on the AAWE Board in his/her role of President Elect. After this term, the President-Elect will succeed to the two (2) year term as President, specified in Section 4 of Article V of AAWE by-laws.

Due to the current vacancy of the President Elect, the AAWE wishes to fill this position as soon as possible. The nomination and start of the term will follow immediately after the conclusion of the elections, scheduled for the month of November 2025 and conducted by electronic ballot. Because of timing for this election, the President Elect will likely start his/her term by the beginning of 2026 and be in this position for a two-year term. The President Elect will become AAWE President after the two-year term.

Requirements for candidacy

- The candidate must be an AAWE member in good standing and be an active member of the Wind Engineering community.

Application

- Self-nominations as well as nominations are welcome.
- Applicants or Nominators should submit
 - a cover letter with a short introduction, followed by a paragraph indicating the reasons for serving (and future plans),
 - a one-paragraph bio-sketch of the nominee.
- Please send nomination/application to the AAWE President-Elect Special Election Committee Chairperson, Professor Alice Alipour (Iowa State University), by sending an email to info@aaawe.org with the subject line 'AAWE President-Elect Special Election'

Nominations/applications are due by October 31, 2025

****Note:** Applications that do not meet the requirements above will not be reviewed. **

Presidential Updates

Dear Distinguished AAWE Members,

It is with great honor that I start my term as President of this important professional and research association. First, I would like to acknowledge the work contributions of the Past President, Professor Dorothy Reed, who graciously agreed to serve two times in this role in recent years; her work and dedication to AAWE have been remarkable and have contributed to the promotion of the various activities under the umbrella of the association. Second, I want to pledge my commitment to serving the association for the upcoming year.

This is a very important time for wind engineering. Our society is facing many challenges, associated with the rapid changes of urbanization, the intensification of extreme wind events often leading to structural and infrastructure damage and losses of property and human life. We see these challenges in the form of hurricane threats along the coastal regions of the North American continent as well as severe thunderstorm events (e.g., tornadoes, downbursts). It is imperative that we continue our research and professional work for applications such as buildings, bridges, and infrastructure. I also note that wind load effects are currently encompassing a wider category of applications, by equally acknowledging the wind load analysis of energy systems, (e.g., wind turbines, solar panels, harvesting devices). Finally, environmental aspects of wind engineering cannot be overlooked.

After careful consideration, I have identified two directions for our organization: (i) a special consideration for activities originating from young researchers and graduate students; and (ii) promoting collaborations among AAWE members and beyond, involving the exchange of ideas with other international wind engineering researchers or groups in a “connected” and global society scenario.

I pledge to serve with humility, dedication and careful attention. I welcome any comments, contributions or ideas that you have. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me through email, LinkedIn, etc. and let me know how I can be of assistance. I look forward to working with you.

Yours Sincerely,

Luca Caracoglia

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Research website: <https://coe.northeastern.edu/people/caracoglia-luca/>