



2025 SPEAKER BUREAU

To connect with any of the Friends Speakers, please contact:

friendsofengineering@umanitoba.ca | 204.474.7416

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and Friends Members*

For more information, visit: <https://friendsofengineering.ca/speaker-bureau>



The Friends of Engineering Speaker Bureau is a resource for professors, staff, and students of the Price Faculty of Engineering who would like to engage Friends and Young Friends members to present in their classes, serve as adjudicators or judges for course projects, or potentially provide tours of industry facilities. This document contains a list of current FOE speakers.

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Jasper Arthur, M.Sc., EIT

Research Officer

National Research Council Canada



Areas of Expertise:

- Robotics
- Optimization
- Additive Manufacturing
- Mechatronics

Jasper Arthur is a Research Officer with the National Research Council of Canada at the Brookside Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility. His background is in Mechanical Engineering, with a Master's in optimizing robotic motion. His current research explores the applications of FFF 3D printing with robotic arms, such as conformal and support-free printing, as well as flexible programming to enable more adaptive robotics.

Grace Capar, EIT

Quality Control Improvement Facilitator
Gerdau



Areas of Expertise:

- Steel
- Rolling Mills
- Lean Six Sigma/Problem Solving
- Quality Control

Grace Capar graduated from the University of Manitoba in May of 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Upon her graduation, she began my employment with Gerdau, a Steel Mill in Selkirk, Manitoba. She started in the G.Future Program, Gerdau's technical and leadership development program, as an Engineer Leader in Training in the Rolling Mill (focusing on Quality Control). After finishing the Program, Grace became the Rolling Mill Quality Control Improvement Facilitator. In this role, her responsibilities include material dispositioning, failure analysis investigation, customer service and complaint facilitation, ISO auditing, document control management as well as Lean Six Sigma projects. Grace has also run Production Shutdown jobs and has managed multi-disciplinary/trade crews in a safe and effective manner. She is currently working to develop her metallurgy skills, specifically physical metallurgy.

Yolande Cates, P.Eng., PMP

Owner/Operator

Escape Social/Cates Software Development

Areas of Expertise:

- Embedded Systems
- Software
- Interactive game design

Yolande Cates is a Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) and project manager with PMP certification with many years of experience in manufacturing and software engineering specializing in embedded systems and is experienced in control systems and data and voice communications in both small and large organizations. Yolande also owns and runs an escape room business.

David Donald, P.Eng.

Precast Design Engineer

Lafarge



Areas of Expertise:

- Precast prestressed and reinforced concrete structures

David Donald has pursued training in both Architecture and Engineering at the University of Manitoba. He holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineer and has worked for both Architectural and Structural Engineering Consulting firms. The majority of his career however has been in the Precast Concrete industry, working first for Con-Force Structures and then since 2010 with Lafarge Precast in Winnipeg.

Graham Fediuk, P.Eng.

Director of Engineering Services
Price Industries Ltd.



Areas of Expertise:

- Mechanical Engineering
- R&D
- Advanced Manufacturing
- HVAC

Graham Fediuk has worked at Price Industries his entire 14-year career. He started out as a product designer focusing on product development, then moved into management. Graham currently oversees the Price R&D lab, and design engineering processes and is now heavily involved with Advanced Manufacturing and Industry 4.0.

Kaitlin Fritz, P.Eng., M.Eng., FEC

Asset Information & Standards Section Head
Manitoba Hydro



Areas of Expertise:

- Transmission Line Design
- Transmission Structure Design and Maintenance
- Asset Management
- Asset Information Management
- Leadership
- Volunteerism
- Women in Engineering

Kaitlin holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (2012) and a Masters of Structural Engineering (2021) from the University of Manitoba. She has spent the bulk of her career at Manitoba Hydro, first as a structural engineer designing transmission lines and structures, and now as the Section Head of Asset Information and Standards. Kaitlin leads a multi-disciplinary team of professionals and technical experts to deliver on the corporation's asset information needs. Kaitlin is an avid volunteer in the engineering community, currently serving as the Young Friends of Engineering Chair, Manitoba Hydro Professional Engineers Association (MHPEA) Networking Committee Chair, and Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (EGM) Awards Committee Chair.

Braden Ganetsky, EIT

Software Developer
Kinaxis



Areas of Expertise:

- Software Architecture
- Software Design
- C++

Braden Ganetsky graduated from the University of Manitoba with a degree in mechanical engineering, fueled by his passion for mechanical puzzles. During his final year of school with all classes and activities moved remote, he discovered C++ and has been hooked ever since. He interned as a C++ developer, which turned into a full-time job, completing a successful pivot of his career. Now, he spends his days working on supply chain software and spends his nights working on getting involved in the C++ community.

Shea Hunt, P.Eng.

Manager, Electronics Engineering
Rehabilitation Centre for Children



Areas of Expertise:

- Embedded System Design
- PCB Design
- IoT
- Medical Devices
- Assistive Technology
- Prototyping
- 3D Printing
- Entrepreneurship

Shea spends most of his time at the Specialized Services for Children and Youth (SSCY) centre where he serves as the manager of the electronics engineering team of the Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) as well as the CEO of Path Biomedical, a new company started by RCC. Among many other things, both RCC and Path Biomedical design and manufacture assistive technology for people living with disabilities. Shea is also the founder and principal engineer of Valley Prototyping Solutions, an engineering consulting firm that provides engineering services to local companies both big and small. Shea gives back to the engineering community by serving on corporate boards and committees related to engineering, standards, and sustainability.

Martin Hunt, P.Eng.

Eco-hydraulics Studies Engineer
Manitoba Hydro



Areas of Expertise:

- Ecological Design
- Eco-hydraulics
- Water Resources

Martin Hunt is an eco-hydraulics engineer with a B Sc. in civil engineering and an M. Sc. in water resources engineering, both from the University of Manitoba. Martin's M.Sc. thesis centered on fish passage in CSP culverts. Martin has worked for 13 years within the Water Resources Department at Manitoba Hydro. His expertise encompasses a wide range of eco-hydraulic projects, including the design of fish passage systems, conducting environmental flow studies, and performing habitat assessments. Martin is also responsible for developing mitigation strategies and offsetting measures to minimize environmental impact. His work ensures the harmonious coexistence of infrastructure development and aquatic ecosystems, reflecting his commitment to sustainable engineering practices.

Derek Lachaine

President & CEO
TransX Group of Companies



Areas of Expertise:

- Transportation Network Design

Derek Lachaine ICD.D President and Chief Executive Officer, TransX Group of Companies Derek joined TransX in 2001 and has since played a pivotal role in the company's growth and success. With a deep understanding of the business, Derek has gained exposure to all areas of the company, beginning in Linehaul operations before advancing to Vice-President of Truckload Sales and Operations, and later, Chief Operating Officer. TransX is a leading provider of integrated transportation services across North America. CN acquired TransX on October 30, 2018. Integrating TransX into CN, Derek lead the transformation of TransX from a primarily Road carrier to an Intermodal carrier with Road. By the end of 2023, 65% of TransX business moved by Rail (from 27%) proving the commercial success of truck-to-rail conversion model for TransX, CN, their joint customers and the environment. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Bio Systems Engineering, an ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors and the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and the completion of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard

University, Derek brings a strong academic foundation to his leadership. Known for his innovative, people-focused approach, he is now leading TransX into its next chapter as Chief Executive Officer. Under Derek's leadership, TransX continues to grow as a leading provider of integrated transportation services across North America. His wealth of experience and strategic vision positions the company to achieve new levels of success.

Andrea Ladouceur, B.Sc. (Hon)

President
Bioscience Association Manitoba



Areas of Expertise:

- Bioscience Industry Overview

Andrea is an innate leader that designs, delivers and realigns strategic and transformation plans in multiple, complex arenas including finance, technology, energy and climate, and health and the economy. She consistently achieves desired outcomes by maximizing partnerships and true collaborations, understanding risks, and unleashing the power and talent of the BAM team to support and elevate the Bioscience industry.

Tom Malkiewicz, C.I.M., P.Eng., FEC

Senior Engineer
Crosier Kilgour



Areas of Expertise:

- Structural Engineering

Tom has been with Crosier Kilgour & Partners Ltd. since 1993. Tom specializes in the structural design and management of large and/or complex projects. As a designer with Crosier Kilgour, he has been involved in Winnipeg landmarks such as Canada Life Centre, HSC Women's Hospital and the Manitoba Hydro Downtown Office Building. Tom graduated from The University of Manitoba in 1987, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, and became registered as a member of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba in 1990.

Carmine Militano, P.Eng., ICD.D.

CEO

Bockstael Construction



Areas of Expertise:

- Buildings Engineering
- Strategic Planning
- Project Management
- Business
- Marketing and Business Development

Carmine Militano is the Chief Executive Officer of Bockstael Construction, a family-owned business entering into its 112th year of continuous operations in Manitoba. Carmine brings a “360 degree view to the construction industry” with more than 40 years’ experience across the entire design-construct life cycle, including consulting engineering, construction and manufacturing. As CEO of Bockstael Construction, he works with the leadership team to continue its focus on sustainable growth fuelled by innovation and the delivery of an exceptional client experience. In 2024, Bockstael was named one of Canada's Best Managed Companies. He is an acknowledged specialist in strategic business planning and facilitation, marketing and business development and project management. He has guest lectured at the University of Manitoba, Red River College Polytechnic and has presented at numerous conferences. He has developed and delivered courses in Project Management as well as Marketing and Sales. He has devoted a significant amount of his time to volunteer and professional organizations, having served on numerous boards over the decades. Today he is Past Chair of the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation Board; and a Director of The Winnipeg Football Club Board. He is also an Associate of the Asper School of Business.

Katie Moist, P.Eng., CM Lean

Project Manager

Bockstael Construction



Areas of Expertise:

- Lean
- Municipal Construction

Katie Moist, P.Eng., is Project Manager at Bockstael Construction, managing construction of multi-family residential and commercial buildings in the Winnipeg area. Previously, Katie worked as a Municipal Engineer with KGS Group after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Manitoba in 2019. Katie has been an active member of the engineering

community since starting in the Faculty of Engineering. She is currently an active member on the 30 by 30 Provincial Steering Committee, and the Vice Chair of Friends of Engineering. Katie received Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's Intern Award in 2022 in recognition for her impact to the profession. She is also an active volunteer in the community, holding positions with Athena Leadership and The United Way Winnipeg.

Maria Neufeld, P.Eng., MBA

Director of Transmission Operations
and Maintenance
Manitoba Hydro



Areas of Expertise:

- Power System Operations
- Asset Maintenance

Maria Neufeld is an innovative, energetic and solutions oriented professional engineer. Maria leads a highly skilled team comprised of six departments responsible for the operations, maintenance, testing, refurbishment and emergency response of equipment in transmission, distribution, and HVDC converter stations, and transmission lines greater than 100 kV across the province on Manitoba from Churchill to US border, from the Saskatchewan Border to the Ontario Border. Maria is passionate about diversity and inclusion. Maria is the 2021 recipient of the Judith Weiszmann Women in Engineering Champion Award, recognized by the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba as a role model for her leadership in the workplace, in the engineering community, and in the industry both locally and internationally and her work to recruit and retain more women in engineering. Maria co-chairs the industry coalition and is a part of the Engineering Changes Lives steering committee for the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, both established to remove barriers that impact diversity in Science Technology Engineering and Math. Maria leads the 30 by 30 task force at Manitoba Hydro. Through her professional and volunteer works, she has greatly inspired her colleagues, other engineers, and young people to see their potential, trust themselves, dream bigger, and do better. Maria graduated with a Bachelors of Electrical Engineering from the Price Faculty of Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration from the Asper School of Business. Maria has held various Engineering and Leadership roles at Manitoba Hydro. Maria has a proven ability to lead, coach and mentor.

Nolan Ploegman, B.Comm, MBA

President & CEO
Concord Projects



Areas of Expertise:

- General Contracting
- Construction Management
- Finance
- Real Estate

Nolan Ploegman was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and joined Concord Projects in 2005. He oversees all aspects of the company, leading a team of experienced construction professionals. Nolan attained a Master of Business Administration (MBA) as well as a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours), majoring in finance and accounting, from the Asper School of Business. Nolan is passionate about philanthropy, technology in construction, and integrating Concord's vision, mission, and values into all aspects of the company. Nolan's experience and knowledge in real estate development, real estate investing, and property management also provide clients with added value.

Aloke Rajbhandary, P.Eng.

Senior Project Manager
Bird Construction



Areas of Expertise:

- Construction Management
- General Contracting
- Integrated Project Delivery

Aloke Rajbhandary is an accomplished construction professional with experience working on diverse projects in wide areas of construction industry. He has been with Bird Construction for 9 years.

Brennan Slater, P.Eng.

Project Manager/Estimator
Cambrian Excavators Ltd.



Areas of Expertise:

- Heavy Civil Construction Management
- Design-Build Infrastructure (shoring, bridges)

Brennan Slater graduated with a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Manitoba in 2018 experience estimating and managing a variety of projects across Manitoba including road and parking lot construction, slope stabilization, shoring system installation, rock and earth berm construction, precast concrete bridge construction and mass earthworks. Brennan also has experience collaborating with Engineers on design-build projects and technical report writing.

Bert Smith, P.Eng

Principal
KGS Group

Areas of Expertise:

- Geotechnical engineering
- Environmental engineering
- Hydrogeological engineering
- GIS engineering

Bert Smith serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of Engineering. Bert is a founding Principal of KGS Group formed in Winnipeg in 1986. KGS Group is a multidiscipline consulting engineering firm with offices across Canada, and a staff level of approximately 500. Bert is responsible for technical and QA/QC work within the Geotechnical, Environmental, Hydrogeological and GIS departments. Diverse experience ranges from hydroelectric developments to the Winnipeg floodway expansion, the Assiniboine riverwalk development, and riverbank stabilization, as well as numerous environmental remediation projects, landfills, mine reclamation, groundwater supply and construction control, geothermal heating/cooling applications such as the IKEA building. and innovative research projects.

Ron Vanderwees, P.Eng.

President & CEO
Vehicle Technology Centre



Areas of Expertise:

- Heavy Equipment and Vehicle Engineering
- Zero Emission
- Low Volume Digital Manufacturing

Ron Vanderwees graduated from U of M Engineering in 1983. He spent 16 Years at New Flyer, 11 at Triple E Recreational Vehicles, and 23 years as a part of the Vehicle Technology Centre (VTC). The VTC is a non-profit that works within the heavy vehicle and equipment manufacturing cluster of companies here in our province. VTC focuses on the path to zero emissions for the different types of vehicles produced in the province, how smart, connected and autonomous technology will change the vehicles produced, and how digital manufacturing technology will shape Manitoba's low volume and highly customized assembly operations.

Kiera Young, P.Eng.

Executive Vice President
MacDon Industries Ltd.



Areas of Expertise:

- Cut, Bent, Welding Processes
- Large Machine Assembly
- Robotic Welding
- Software Design
- Mechanical Design
- Hydraulics Design
- Validation Testing (lab and field)
- Test Simulation
- FEA
- DFMEA
- Quality Programs
- Product Safety

As Executive Vice President at MacDon Industries Ltd., a world leader in technology, innovation and manufacturing of high-performance agricultural harvesting equipment, Kiera Young has overall responsibility for growth strategies, global Sales & Marketing, Operations, After-market Parts &

Service, Product Development and Engineering. Kiera brings a wealth of experience to this position joining MacDon in 2015. Kiera holds the P.Eng. designation as well as a B.Sc. in Engineering (Mechanical) from the University of Manitoba and has completed the Program for Leadership Development from Harvard Business School. Kiera is also a Lean Sensei International Black Belt. Having been involved in farming and the agricultural community throughout her life, Kiera is currently the Treasurer of the Agricultural Manufacturer's of Canada. Additionally, a strong supporter of engineers of the future, Kiera is the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Friends of Engineering as we as actively participate in mentoring and events geared to introducing Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) careers to students.