



**2021/2022 Executive Committee**

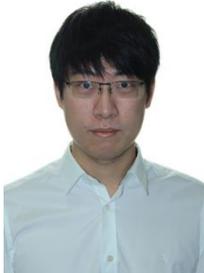
Dino Vito – Chair  
Michael Etezad - Secretary  
Billy Singh – Regional Director  
Amir Poshnejad – Treasurer  
Leila Baninajarian – Student Member/ Website

Aly Abdelaziz – Event Lead  
Isabel Perez – Event Lead  
Rajib Dey – Event Lead  
Sen Hu – Event Lead

Vanessa Marshall – Sponsorship  
Bill Li - Membership and Award  
Mike Diez de Aux – Communication  
Rashid Bashir – Student Liaison

**2022 CGS-SOS Graduate Student Competition**

Canadian Geotechnical Society, Southern Ontario Section (CGS-SOS) congratulates the graduate students who presented their research on 2022 Graduate Student Competition. The competition included representatives from six Southern Ontario Universities (McMaster University, University of Waterloo, University of Toronto, York University, Ryerson University, and Western University). A representative from each University gave a virtual presentation of up to 12 minutes which was followed by a 3-minute question-and-answer period. A panel of judges from industry and academia evaluated the presentations. Evaluation for the CGS-SOS Graduate Student Competition was conducted based on the following criteria: geotechnical content and interest (60%), oral and visual quality of presentation (30%) and performance during the question-and-answer period (10%). Cash prizes was awarded to recognize the best presentations and for participation in the competition. The best presenter, Bruce Gee was awarded \$1000; the second-place presenter, Wendal Victor Yue received \$500; and the third-place presenter, Tao Xie received \$300; and the rest of the speakers received \$200 for participation.

		
<b>Bruce Gee University of Waterloo</b>	<b>Wendal Victor Yue University of Toronto</b>	<b>Tao Xie McMaster University</b>
		
<b>Abdul Basit York University</b>	<b>Abulimiti Ayizula Ryerson University</b>	<b>Grytan Sarkar Western University</b>



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**Bruce Gee, University of Waterloo**



Bruce Gee is a PhD candidate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Waterloo under the supervision of Dr. Robert Gracie. His research is in computational geomechanics and is currently focused on developing novel extensions to the cubic law for inertia dominant flows through non-uniform fractures and investigating the role of fluid inertia in hydraulic fracturing and geothermal systems. Bruce's previous research includes the development of multiphysics models for enhanced geothermal systems, and validation of numerical fracture models with experimental data. He has presented at conferences across North America and Europe and has already published four peer-reviewed papers including "XFEM Simulation of a Mixed-Mode Fracture Experiment in PMMA" in Engineering Fracture Mechanics, and "Multiscale Short-circuiting Mechanisms in Multiple Fracture Enhanced Geothermal Systems" in Geothermics.

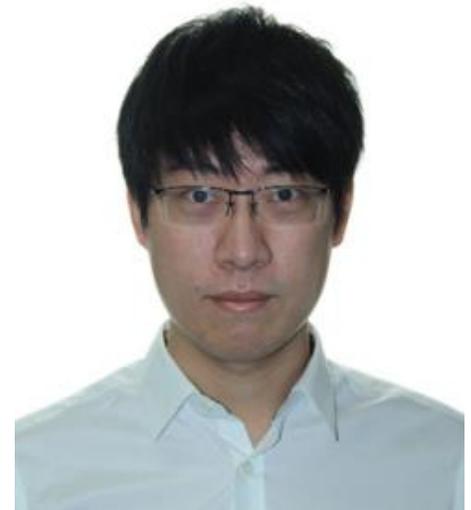
Bruce received his BAsC in civil engineering with honours from the University of Waterloo in 2018. He continued his graduate studies at the University of Waterloo where he was awarded the prestigious Engineering Excellence Fellowship and NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Canada

Graduate Scholarship. He is currently the holder of an NSERC Canadian Graduate Scholarship doctoral award. name is Lisa Deng and I'm honoured to be receiving the undergraduate scholarship from Canadian Geotechnical Society. I'm expecting to begin my final year in completing my bachelor's in civil engineering at McMaster university during fall of 2022. One of the things I love the most about my program is its diversity in subjects. Geotechnical engineering was newly introduced to me and that's when a new curiosity peaked in my academic career. Throughout my three years at McMaster University, my understanding of what civil engineering encompasses has changed drastically and broadens every day. Geotechnical engineering is a captivating study in which I hope to continue to further my understanding in. As a current construction intern at Enbridge Gas Distribution, I hope to find an opportunity to shadow the geotechnical sector within the company. I see value in hands on experiences and applying in class knowledge to real life problems. This award has defiantly encouraged me to continue to further in geotechnical studies and I look forward to what the future holds.

**Wendal Victor Yue, University of Toronto**

Wendal's research focus is the mechanical properties of mine tailings mixed with binder and called Cemented Paste Backfill. An important part of the research is to examine the strength development and behaviour of Cemented Paste Backfill by laboratory testing methods and field study with mines located in Ontario, Canada.

Wendal was a geotechnical E.I.T. at WSP in Toronto before starting his graduate study at the University of Toronto. Wendal is also a father of a two-year-old boy, Ethan. In his spare time, he enjoys going to the park and trail with his family to stay fit and healthy.



Website: <http://www.cgs-sos.ca>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cgs-sos/>



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**Tao Xie, McMaster University**

Tao Xie is a PhD candidate in the Department of Civil at McMaster University under the supervision of Dr. Peijun Guo. His research is to explore the “vibration-induced shear resistance reduction (ViSRR) of sheared granular materials”, which involves in a broad number of processes such as vibratory pile installation, avalanches, landslides, etc. To achieve this goal, two aspects of work are carried out: (1) the laboratory tests based on a modified triaxial apparatus, and (2) the theoretical analysis by extending the micromechanics-based “shear-transformation-zone (STZ) model” to the soil mechanics. Currently, the emphasis of my work is placed on the development of extended STZ model to simulate the responses of granular soil under coupled static and dynamic loadings.



**Abdul Basit, York University**



Abdul Basit is an M.A.Sc. candidate in the Department of Civil Engineering. He is working under the supervision of Dr. Rashid Bashir, Dr. Matthew A. Perras and Dr. Mohammad Shaiffee. He is researching the Effects of Climate Change on the Thermal Behaviour of Pavements and how these effects impact the design practices involve in pavement construction and maintenance across Ontario, Canada. His research paper titled “Climate Change Implications for Asphalt Binder Selection in Pavement Construction across Ontario” was presented last year at the ASCE-ICTD 2021 conference. He holds a B.Sc. degree from the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, in Pakistan. He has more than two years of industry experience as a civil engineer on multi million dollars projects in Pakistan. He is grateful of his experience earned as a teaching assistant and as a master’s candidate conducting data analysis and numerical modelling. He aims to maintain a positive outlook and continue to expand his skills.



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**Abulimiti Ayizula, Ryerson University**



Abulimiti is a MASc student in the Department of Civil Engineering at Ryerson University. She also received her Bachelor of Engineering with Honors in 2020 at Ryerson University. She was nominated for the Ryerson Gold Medal Award by demonstrating outstanding academic achievement combined with her involvement in the University. While working as a research assistant during her undergrad, she decided to continue her graduate studies and expand her knowledge of Geotechnical Engineering. Under the supervision of Dr. Liu, she is researching the compressibility properties of fine-grained soils in the Greater Toronto Area. She uses an advanced soil constitutive model to simulate the laboratory consolidation test and utilizes the inverse analysis method to estimate the proper model parameters, which can lead to accurate simulation results. Her research aims to characterize the compressibility parameters for different fine-grained soils and help practitioners obtain appropriate soil parameters for the actual projects.

**Grytan Sarkar, Western University**

Grytan Sarkar is a PhD Candidate at the University of Western Ontario. He is working on the instability and Liquefaction behaviour of oil sand tailings, which is funded by Ontario Trillium Scholarship. He is supervised by Dr. Abouzar Sadrekarimi. He has completed his MASc. from University of British Columbia.

His research at Western involves studying the monotonic and dynamic behaviors of an organic peat (from Port Islands, Toronto) and oil sand tailings (from Alberta) followed by an innovative technique using microbial calcite precipitation to improve the strength of these materials for ensuring the stability of mine tailings dam. These investigations have a significant practical value for the geotechnical engineering profession and the mining industry in Canada. He has published two journal papers and two conference papers already. He has submitted two other journals, which are under revisions. He is a winner of many awards and scholarships during his PhD. He is the recipient of the 2021 Milos Novak Memorial Award, Tailings and Mine Waste 2021 Conference - Scholarship Award, 2020 Manuel Fine Engineering Scholarship and the R.M. Quigley Award in the year 2020, and Mr. Y.F. Eric and Mrs. Ruby S. Chung Graduate Scholarship Award from Western's Geotechnical Research Centre (GRC) in the year 2019.

Prior to joining Western in May 2018, Grytan worked as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at KUET, where he conducted research on various engineering topics such as footing or plate anchors subjected to short and long-term loading, erosion through a defective pipe, application of Artificial Neural Networks in geotechnical engineering, and characterization of topsoil in Khulna. The outcomes of these research are culminated in 7 journal papers (in addition to those from his MASc studies), focusing on geotechnical engineering and soil improvement.

