

DR. TRAVER JOINS ELITE LIST OF DISTINGUISHED VILLANOVA FACULTY

In May 2016, Robert G. Traver, PhD, PE, D.WRE., F. EWRI., F. ASCE, '82 MSCE, the Edward A. Daylor Chair in Civil Engineering, was presented with Villanova University's prestigious Outstanding Faculty Research Award. The annual award recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates the highest standards of excellence in research, scholarship and contributions to their field.

A member of the Water Resources and Environmental Engineering program at Villanova since 1988, Dr. Traver is a nationally recognized expert in stormwater management, green infrastructure and sustainability, and serves as director of both the Villanova Center for the Advancement of Sustainability in Engineering (VCASE) and the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership (VUSP). He teaches graduate courses in hydrology, hydraulics and urban stormwater management, and undergraduate courses in all facets of water resources. Believing that research supports and enhances the educational experience, Dr. Traver involves both undergraduate and graduate students in VCASE and VUSP projects.

Nationally Recognized Expertise

Active in professional organizations and engaged in high-level national committees, Dr. Traver has been distinguished as a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) and a Diplomate of the American Academy of Water Resource Engineers, which he served as president. In 2007, he received the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal from the Commanding General of the United States Corps of Engineers for his work on ASCE's external review panel of the Corps' investigation of Hurricane Katrina. He also served on the National Research Council Committee that authored "Urban Stormwater Management in the United States" (2009), an opportunity that he particularly enjoyed because it "required addressing issues that vary dramatically throughout the country."

In 2014, Dr. Traver was honored with the ASCE's William H. Wisley American Civil Engineer Award for his leadership of ASCE's Task Committee on Flood Safety Policies and Practices. He also was responsible for editing and presenting the Committee's final report, "Flood Risk Management: Call for a National Strategy." Dr. Traver continues to serve the profession as an associate editor of the *Journal of Sustainable Water in the Built Environment*, which he helped to create.

"With all his success, Rob has remained humble and is the first to offer help, guidance, advice and support to faculty and students. He has been a tremendous influence on me and my own career."

—Associate Professor Bridget Wadzuk, PhD, '00 CE,
Civil and Environmental Engineering



The green roof on the Center for Engineering Education and Research (CEER) is just one of several stormwater research and demonstration sites on campus.

Research

Given that his decades of research could fill many pages, the following highlights represent only the past couple years—and roughly \$2.2 million in grants—of Dr. Traver's impressive career:

- "Philadelphia's Clean Water Initiative"—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Also on this project: Mechanical Engineering Associate Professor **Garrett Clayton, PhD**.
- Villanova's stormwater research and demonstration park, a "Best Management Practice National Monitoring Site"—Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Civil and Environmental Engineering colleagues **Bridget Wadzuk, PhD, '00 CE**, associate professor; and **Andrea Welker, PhD**, professor, also are engaged in what has been a 15-year partnership.
- "Rain Garden Configuration to Maximize Hydrologic Performance"—Pennsylvania Growing Greener. Dr. Welker also is on this project.

- "Green City, Clean Water"—City of Philadelphia's Water Department (PWD). Drs. Wadzuk and Welker also are active in this program.

Describing their ongoing research as one of his most rewarding collaborations, Dr. Traver says: "PWD is a forward-thinking organization, and it is a pleasure to work on the city's stormwater problems with young, innovative engineers, several of whom are Villanova graduates."

"Dr. Traver treats everyone on his research team like family, providing continuous support and guidance. In the classroom, he creates an atmosphere that encourages students to produce their best work. He is an inspirational role model and mentor."

—Graduate Assistant Stephanie Rindosh



Assistant Professor John Komlos, PhD; Water Resources Laboratory Director Erica Forgione '12 CE, '15 MSWREE, E.I.T.; Professor Andrea Welker, PhD; Associate Professor Bridget Wadzuk, PhD, '00 CE; and VCASE and VUSP Director Robert Traver, PhD

Stormwater and Sustainability Symposia

In 2012, VUSP began hosting Pennsylvania's biennial stormwater symposium for engineers, scientists and conservationists. The program begins with a day-long workshop for municipal officials, followed by two days of lectures and presentations by experts in academia, industry and government sectors.

In 2015, VCASE launched a separate research symposium, also hosted by Dr. Traver. The event brings together professionals from academia, industry and government sectors to share best practices and research findings to promote sustainable solutions to critical issues relating to water quality, infrastructure and energy. VCASE will hold its second annual research symposium, "Resilience in Engineering Design or Practice," in September 2016.

"Unbelievable"

That's how Dr. Traver describes the honor of receiving Villanova's Outstanding Faculty Research Award. "The nice thing about doing this kind of work is that it's almost always as part of a team. I wish this could be a team award. I certainly couldn't do what I do without the participation of VCASE staff, faculty and students."

Drosdick Endowed Dean of Engineering Gary A. Gabriele, PhD, finds Dr. Traver most deserving of this award: "Through hard work, Rob has established a national and international reputation as one of the leading scholars in stormwater management. He has developed an outstanding team of faculty, and together they are addressing some of the most important challenges we face in achieving a sustainable planet." ■

College of Engineering Recipients of Villanova's Outstanding Faculty Research Award

2016: Robert Traver, PhD, PE, D.WRE., F. EWRI., F. ASCE, '82 MSCE, the Edward A. Daylor Chair in Civil Engineering, and director of the Villanova Center for the Advancement of Sustainability in Engineering and Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership

2013: C. Nataraj, PhD, professor and director of the Villanova Center for the Analytics of Dynamic Systems

2007: Ahmad Hoorfar, PhD, director of the Antenna Research Laboratory

1997: Moeness Amin, PhD, director of the Center for Advanced Communications