



NASRIN ALAMDARI

A. Ivan Johnson Award for Young Professionals

Dr. Nasrin Alamdari is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Florida State University. Her research lies at the intersection of urban hydrology, stormwater management, watershed modeling, and artificial intelligence, with a strong emphasis on sustainability, resilience, and environmental justice. Dr. Alamdari leads a dynamic research program that addresses pressing water infrastructure challenges in the face of climate and land use changes. She specializes in developing and applying advanced analytical tools—including deep learning, hydrologic modeling, and optimization frameworks—to evaluate and improve the performance of green infrastructure (GI) systems, particularly in data-scarce, flood-prone, or underserved urban areas.

Dr. Alamdari's work integrates artificial intelligence techniques such as generative adversarial networks (GANs) and digital twin frameworks to simulate extreme events and provide robust decision-support tools for stormwater infrastructure planning. Her projects explore the use of synthetic data to overcome monitoring limitations and examine the spatiotemporal variability of pollutant loads, climate stressors, and stormwater system performance. She has also contributed to innovative efforts that link water quality prediction with harmful algal bloom (HAB) mitigation, leveraging AI and remote sensing technologies to support evidence-based policy and management decisions.

Her interdisciplinary research has been funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and other state and federal agencies. These projects address topics such as nutrient reduction, flood resilience, equitable GI planning, and climate-adaptive infrastructure design. She collaborates with stakeholders from municipalities, state agencies, K–12 schools, and community organizations to ensure her work has practical, scalable, and inclusive outcomes.

In addition to her scientific contributions, Dr. Alamdari is a dedicated educator and mentor. She actively engages underrepresented students in environmental engineering through research-driven learning opportunities and community outreach programs that inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.



ZHENXING (JASON) ZHANG

AWRA Fellow Member Award

Zhenxing (Jason) Zhang leads the water supply planning and water-energy nexus studies in the Illinois State Water Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is the Past-President of American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and associate editor for *Journal of Hydrology*, *Journal of American Water Resources Association*, *HydroResearch*, and *Earth Science, Systems and Society*. He is the board member of Chinese American Water Resources Association (CAWRA). He has obtained B.S. degree in Environmental Planning from Wuhan University, M.S. degree in Environmental Science from Peking University, M.S. degree in Applied Statistics from Syracuse University, and Ph.D. degree in Water Resources Engineering from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) and worked as research associate at Penn State University and water resources engineer at SRBC. He is a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.) and Professional Hydrologist (P.H.) with extensive experience on hydrology, water resources planning and management, hydrologic modeling, evolutionary algorithms, multi-objective optimization, water-energy nexus, and water supply for carbon capture.



MICHAEL CONNOR

Henry P. Caulfield, Jr., Medal for Exemplary Contributions to National Water Policy

Michael Connor, a member of Taos Pueblo, received his BS in engineering (NM State) and JD in natural resources law (Colorado). From 1993-2001 he held various water policy positions in the Department of Interior, including Director of the recently formed Office of Indian Water. From 2001-2009, he was counsel at the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee where he led legislative efforts related to water in the west. In 2009 he was confirmed as Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, which he led through 2013, when he was then unanimously confirmed by the US Senate as the Deputy Secretary of the Interior. During his service as Commissioner and as Deputy Secretary, he developed and implemented a number of initiatives that enabled water, community, and ecosystem sustainability across the United States, particularly the western US. In 2021, Mr. Connor was confirmed as the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), providing policy leadership for the US Army Corps of Engineers at a time of substantial infrastructure re-investment, increased role of the Corps in assisting recovery from devastating floods, adapting navigation traffic to droughts on the Mississippi, and substantial shifts in the role of natural and restored ecosystems.



ALI MIRCHI

Icko Iben Multidisciplinary Communications Award

Dr. Ali Mirchi is an Associate Professor of Water Resources Engineering in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at Oklahoma State University. He also serves as Associate Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Center, a federally authorized institute under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984, dedicated to supporting informed water management through impactful research, education, and outreach that connects science with communities to address pressing water challenges.

Dr. Mirchi's work has facilitated dialogues among traditional disciplines of engineering, hydrology, water resources management, climatology, ecology, soil sciences, agronomy, social sciences, environmental policy, and economics, while engaging a diverse array of water resources decision-makers, practitioners, and civil society communities in the US and internationally. He applies effective communication strategies to translate complex scientific evidence into accessible information for the public and relay the stakeholders' perspectives to experts from different disciplinary backgrounds to develop holistic solutions. His science-based outreach efforts have guided water policies and management interventions to support sustainable food, feed, and fiber production amid mounting challenges posed by urbanization, irrigation expansion, fragile ecosystems, and hydrologic intensification. These efforts have attracted media attention to critical water resources management issues such as looming water bankruptcy in regions where water demand far exceeds renewable water supply leading to shrinkage of natural lakes and groundwater depletion.

Besides communicating the dire challenges, Dr. Mirchi's outreach efforts grounded in actionable science raise public awareness about opportunities for mitigation and adaptation, including reducing demand through water conservation, recycling and reuse of treated wastewater, and planning to use other non-traditional water sources such as inland saline groundwater in conjunction with available freshwater resources. He has a proven track record of communicating research findings to the public through stakeholder meetings, fact sheets, op-eds, and interviews about water-related stories in local to global news outlets. Dr. Mirchi holds a PhD in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University,



a Master's in water resources engineering from Lund University, and a BS in civil engineering-water resources from the University of Tabriz.



HASSAN NIAZI

Integrated Water Resources Management Award

Hassan Niazi is an Earth Scientist at the Joint Global Change Research Institute, a collaboration between the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the University of Maryland. He specializes in integrated modeling of water systems with interconnections to climate, economy, energy, and ecosystems. His research focuses on integrated modeling to analyze water resource security, energy-water-land interactions, and socio-environmental trade-offs under global change.

He also researches nature-based engineered systems and disaster risk reduction using probabilistic and process-based numerical models. Collectively, his work has contributed to advancing fundamental understanding of dynamics among multiple anthropogenic and natural sectors, including water resources, energy production and use, land use, agriculture, greenhouse gas emissions, and atmospheric, terrestrial, and oceanic natural systems under global change. He has published in high-impact journals, including Nature portfolio journals, and has appeared on national and international media outlets to make the case for interdisciplinary integration of water systems across sectors and scales. Hassan is a member of several professional bodies, including AAAS, AGU, AWRA, and ASCE, and often represents the water community both nationally and internationally. He holds two masters with a water system specialization and a bachelors in civil engineering with the highest honors.



TAMIM YOUNOS

Mary H. Marsh Medal - Exemplary Contributions to the Protection and Wise Use of the Nation's Water Resources

Dr. Tamim Younos is Founder & President of the Green Water-Infrastructure Academy, a nonprofit organization. The mission of GWIA is "Enhance human health and quality of life in global urban environments by promoting green water-infrastructure research, education and outreach programs."

Dr. Tamim Younos earned doctoral degree in urban and environmental engineering from the University of Tokyo. His research and educational interests include water sustainability in urban environments; water and energy nexus; climate change and water resources; watershed assessment and monitoring; holistic approach to sustainable management of water resources; green decentralized water- infrastructure; and sustainable living. Dr. Younos is a former Research Professor of Water Resources and Interim Director of Virginia Water Resources Research Center at Virginia Tech. Dr. Younos currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Water Resources at the University of the District of Columbia.

Dr. Younos has authored/co-authored more than 170 publications and has edited eleven books on water science & management. Dr. Younos has led and/or participated in numerous interdisciplinary water research and educational projects and advised students in various disciplines including engineering, environmental sciences, geosciences, biology, economics, geography and urban planning. Dr. Younos has organized/chaired numerous local, regional, statewide and national/international conferences/symposia and workshops. Dr. Younos has presented invited lectures in China, Japan, Thailand, Hungary, Poland, Spain, and Turkey. His awards and recognition include: American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership (2023); American Water



Resources Association (AWRA) Icko Iben Award (2017), Fulbright Scholar Award (2015); AWRA Fellow Award (2013); Honor Award, Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Society (2011); Drop of Water Award, Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (2006); Friend of UCOWR, Universities Council on Water Resources (2003); and Japan Society for Promotion of Science Fellow (2001).



ASHOK SHAHANE

William C. Ackermann Medal for Excellence in Water Management

Ashok N. Shahane received a Doctorate Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Connecticut in 1973, specialized in Hydrology and Water Resources.

Dr. Shahane worked for the private corporations, governmental agencies and public-private universities in Florida for the last 50 years in various aspects of Water Resources. During this tenure, he served in several technical, administrative, managerial, advisory, and teaching positions. He also served on several professional committees and statewide task forces in Florida. He received numerous awards for his meritorious professional work and service.

He is a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) in the state of Florida since January 1977, a registered Professional Hydrologist (P.H.) since 1986, and a Certified Ground Water Professional (CGWP) from 1985 to 2012. In 1996 he became a Certified Public Manager (CPM) from the Florida Center for Public Management of the Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.

Dr. Shahane is currently an active member of 6 Professional Organizations for almost fifty years, including American society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Florida Engineering Society (FES), American Water Resources Association (AWRA), and American Institute of Hydrology (AIH), National Ground Water Association (NGWA) and International Toastmasters Inc. As an Adjunct Professor of Engineering, Hydrology, Hydraulics, and Water Resources, Dr. Shahane taught and introduced several new undergraduate and graduate level courses at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida International University in South Miami and FAMU/FSU College of Engineering in Tallahassee, Florida for 18 years (1979-97). His newly developed undergraduate and graduate level courses on Water Resources Planning and Design are well received and Dr. Shahane enthusiastically emphasizes in his several past, current and future presentations the reasons why the water management in Florida is recognized as the best in US.

He is an author of over 150 reports and publications, the majority of which have appeared in several reputable and international Journals and conference proceedings. He is a sole author of five books which have been published in 1996, 1997, 2012, 2013 and 2014 and are available from amazon.com. All these Dr. Shahane's impressive contributions are while he was holding his full-time job and being a family man.



THE FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER

N. Earl Spangenberg Outstanding Student Chapter Award

The Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) AWRA Student Chapter has continuously proven our dedication to water resources education and management. We provide value to FGCU by promoting this student chapter as a way to network with professionals in a water resources-related field and to get involved in hydrological research on campus. Student chapter members work hard to coordinate



guest speakers and lectures, educational field trips, and service-learning opportunities for students passionate about water resources research and development. This award applies to our student chapter, as our students organize many field trips and service activities every year that inform students of the history, current issues, and ongoing solutions related to Southwest Florida Water Resources. Additionally, our chapter's influence extends beyond The Water School, as we often collaborate with other departments, student organizations, and professionals from various fields to explore the importance of local, regional, and global water resources.



WASHINGTON STATE SECTION Outstanding State Section Award

American Water Resources Association - Washington Section (AWRA-WA) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization of Washington State-based water resources professionals. We provide forums and informational exchange for advancing water resources management throughout the Pacific Northwest region, connect university students and young professionals to fellowship and mentorship opportunities, and recognize excellence in water resource education, management, and research.

2024 ACTIVITIES

Our 2024 state conference brought over 100 professionals together with the theme of fishable, swimmable, and drinkable waters – a vision where water resources sustain ecosystems, invite recreation, provide for healthy, thriving communities. Here are some examples from our several additional events. On November 6th in Cle Elum, explored salmon recovery efforts at our in-person event hosted by the Department of Ecology, US Bureau of Reclamation, and Tribes at the juvenile fish passage facility. Meanwhile, on November 14th at the Pearl in Ellensburg, we continued to learn about conservation and restoration, an inspiring example of partnerships coming together to restore critical flows. Additionally, on December 9th at Ivars Fish House in Seattle, we come together for our annual meeting and dinner, spotlighting our guest speaker and past board member, John Chandler, Water Resources Technical Lead with Puget Sound Energy. We also awarded 4, \$2,500 student fellowship awards recognizing research furthering water resources.

As we start 2025, we have an ambitious and growing set of goals, especially related to special networking events, lunch and dinner meetings, engagement of campus chapters, student fellowships and our annual conference scheduled for October 14, 2025, titled “Rethinking the Water Year: Aligning Supply and Demand in a Changing Water Resources Landscape”.

AWRA-WA's student chapters are historically some of the most active and engaged in the nation, including fantastic work by CWU to organize events in 2024 and 2025 and volunteering at the 2024 state conference. We also have exciting news that the UW student chapter, which has been dormant for a few years, has new leadership and new energy for organization.