



STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

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Structural Engineers of Illinois Special Award Winners

Chicago, IL: The Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2017 SEAOI Special Awards, which were given at the Annual Awards Dinner, held on June 3, 2017 at Venue SIX10 in Chicago, IL. This annual event honors several individuals for their contributions to, and efforts on behalf of, the structural engineering community in addition to recognizing excellence in structural engineering projects.

Awards were presented as follows:

John F. Parmer Award recipient – William F. Baker, PE, SE

The late John F. Parmer, a founder of SEAOI and its first Executive Director, believed structural engineers should be recognized for their important role in creating our constructed environment. The family of John Parmer endowed this annual award recognizing an individual whose career has been acknowledged by his or her peers as an example of excellence in the field of structural engineering.

The 2017 John F. Parmer Award was presented to Bill Baker, a structural and civil engineering partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP where he has led the structural engineering practice for over 20 years. Since joining the firm in 1981, he has dedicated himself to extending the profession of structural engineering through design, research, teaching, and professional activities.

Bill is best known for the development of the “buttressed core” structural system for the Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest manmade structure. While widely regarded for his work on supertall buildings, Bill’s expertise also extends to long-span roof structures and specialty structures such as the Broadgate Exchange House in London and the Entrance Pavilion for General Motors’ Headquarters in Detroit.

Bill is actively involved with numerous professional organizations and institutions of higher learning. He is a member of SEAOI, the National Academy of Engineering, the American Concrete Institute, and the Committee on Specifications, American Institute of Steel Construction. He is also a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Structural Engineers, and an International Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

David Horos, Past President of SEAOI and Director, Structural Engineering, SOM, noted that Bill’s colleagues describe him as brilliant, passionate, innovative, perceptive, and committed. “In addition to his practice, Bill has spent untold hours working to better the profession by serving on committees, writing papers, and teaching. He has also encouraged and supported others to do the same...He wholeheartedly supports SEF and SEAOI and recognizes the importance of each to our community. I hope you’ll agree that Bill is very deserving of this award.”

SEAOI Service Award recipient – Robert G. Lukas, PE

The SEAOI Service Award is given to individuals for outstanding contributions to SEAOI or to the profession of structural engineering in the State of Illinois. It is given to a person in the design, construction, or related field, who has achieved outstanding success and distinction in his or her career, and who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of structural engineering.

The 2017 SEAOI Service Award was presented to Robert G. Lukas, Principal at Ground Engineering Consultants, Inc. He earned both a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering at Northwestern University, and holds PE licenses in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, Indiana, and Kentucky. He is a member of ASCE's Committee on Foundation & Excavation Standards, American Society of Testing and Materials, Committee D-18, ISPE, and NSPE. Mr. Lukas was awarded the Martin S. Kapp Foundation Engineering Award by ASCE in 1991. He has published dozens of articles in his career.

His expertise in geotechnical projects includes dynamic compaction, pressuremeter testing and interpretation, pile and drilled pier foundations and slope stability analysis. He has participated in re-analysis of six earth dams for the Corps of Engineers in Ohio, where slope stability and seepage studies were undertaken, in ground improvement recommendations and monitoring of over 300 projects where dynamic compaction was used as a site improvement technique, and in making geotechnical recommendations for nine flood storage projects for the Soil Conservation Service. Mr. Lukas has also been involved with analyzing capacity and monitoring pile installations for over 300 projects and interpretation of pressuremeter tests to predict settlement of over 1,000 projects. His research involvement includes a 2-year project to prepare a user's manual on dynamic compaction for the Federal Highway Administration, and a 2 ½ year study for the Federal Aviation Administration on thickness design procedures for airfields containing stabilized pavement components.

Outstanding Young Engineer Award recipient – Patrick Ragan, SE

In 2008, SEAOI introduced an Outstanding Young Engineer Award to honor a Young Engineer (aged 35 or younger) who is recognized by his or her peers for outstanding achievements in structural engineering.

The 2017 Outstanding Young Engineer Award was presented to Patrick Ragan, SE, an Associate with WSP (formerly Halvorson + Partners). In his 9 years of experience, Patrick has been integral in many of H+P's tallest and most complex structures, such as the UAE Pavilion for the Shanghai Expo and the World Trade Center in Abu Dhabi (21st tallest tower at 381 m) . He has handled many of the most sophisticated analytical and design aspects of each project. For example, as the lead engineer for the lateral systems of a number of tall towers - including the Rolansberg Tower (350 m) in Shenzhen and the Samsung Life Insurance Headquarters (260 m) in Beijing - Patrick has performed nonlinear response history analysis to assess performance under rare-level seismic loading, enabling those projects in China to receive Expert Panel Approval. Design collaborators appreciate the high level of analytical and design expertise Patrick brings to each project.

Ragan holds an M.S. in Structural Engineering from the University of Texas, Austin, and a B.S. in Architectural Engineering from the University of Kansas. He is a member of SEAOI, ASCE, and AISC.

Carrie Warner, who nominated Patrick on behalf of H+P, notes, "It is rare that a young engineer is actually a driver ... for innovation of large and complex projects at an early phase in their career – but Patrick Ragan is one rare engineer! His profound conceptual understanding of structural behavior is complemented by a creative mind, a practical approach and a personal drive to carry new ideas into reality... Already, clients and design collaborators appreciate the high level of analytical and design expertise he brings to each project, as he enables their

architectural design innovation through his own innovative engineering. Patrick undoubtedly has a spectacular future career ahead that will make an innovative, lasting impact on the built world and profession."

For more information about the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois Special Awards, please visit www.SEAOf.org.

The Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI) was founded in 1965 by practicing structural engineers to advance and advocate excellence in structural engineering and to aid in safeguarding the lives and property of the public. SEAOI's Mission is to champion excellence for its members in the practice of Structural Engineering. SEAOI contributes to the expansion of the art and science of structural engineering by offering education, outreach and networking opportunities to members and the public living and working in Illinois.

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