

Frangopol Receives ASCE's OPAL Award for Lifetime Achievement in Education

The American Society of Civil Engineering ([ASCE](#)) recently awarded Lehigh's [Dan M. Frangopol](#), the Fazlur Rahman Khan Endowed Chair of Structural Engineering and Architecture and professor of structural engineering, with its prestigious Outstanding Projects and Leaders ([OPAL](#)) award for lifetime achievement in civil engineering education.

Five awards are given out annually to civil engineers of the highest caliber, one in each of the following categories: construction, design, education, government, and management.

Of the award, the ASCE says, "These individuals crafted engineering wonders that have contributed to the creation of thriving businesses and the local economies of the communities they serve. Lifetime recipients represent a model of achievement to which future generations of engineers aspire to match or exceed."

Frangopol received the award for education. Its recipients must be professors or deans who have demonstrated excellence and have directed or changed the course of engineering education.

As the first holder of the Khan Chair, Frangopol came to Lehigh in 2006 from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has supervised 40 Ph.D. (32 graduated) and 54 M.S. students over the course of his career. In addition, he supervised and sponsored 16 post-doctoral researchers and hosted over 60 visiting scholars. Twenty of his former students and post-doctoral researchers are university professors in the United States and abroad, and many are prominent in professional practice and research laboratories. He has received three honorary doctorates and nine honorary professorships, among many other [professional awards](#).

Frangopol has [authored](#) or co-authored two books, 40 book chapters, 320 journal articles, and more than 500 papers in conference proceedings. Nine of his papers won national and international awards, including the ASCE's [Croes Medal](#) twice (with his former advisees S. Kim, '13 Ph.D., M. Soliman, '15 Ph.D., and M. Enright, '99 Ph.D.), the [Noble Prize](#) (with his former advisee M. Soliman, '15 Ph.D.), and [Wellington Prize](#) (with his former advisee N.Okasha, '10 Ph.D.).

In 2010, Frangopol was inducted as a [Distinguished Member](#) of ASCE. He is also the founding president of both the International Association for Bridge Maintenance and Safety ([IABMAS](#)) and the International Association for Life-Cycle Civil Engineering ([IALCCE](#)). The creation of these two associations with the purpose of enhancing the welfare of society, with a total of about 2000 members from 55 countries and 6 national groups, where major biennial conferences are held on different continents, made significant differences in educating the minds of up-and-coming young engineers around the globe.

He also organizes the annual [Fazlur Rahman Khan Distinguished Lecture Series](#). Past speakers include prominent and distinguished researchers and practitioners of structural engineering and architecture. Among them are two former recipients of the OPAL award for education – Lehigh's John W. Fisher, emeritus professor of structural engineering and a Lehigh graduate, '64 Ph.D., and Theodore V. Galambos, emeritus professor of structural engineering at the University of Minnesota and a Lehigh graduate, '59 Ph.D.

ASCE represents more than 146,000 members in 174 countries. It will formally bestow Frangopol with the OPAL award at a gala in March 2016 in Arlington, VA. See [more](#).

–John Gilpatrick
September 16, 2015

Civil and Environmental Engineering



The OPAL award is given annually by ASCE, the nation's oldest engineering society, which represents 146,000 civil engineers.

