Homa Ghaemi was named Chief Executive Officer of Klein & Hoffman, a structural engineering and architecture firm based in Chicago, IL. Ghaemi, previously COO and Senior Principal, has been with the firm for 19 years. She is a licensed structural engineer with over 35 years of domestic and international experience. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering from The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, and her MBA from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

FORTA Corporation announced the retirement of ACI member Daniel Biddle, Vice President of Sales. Biddle started his career as the first salesman of synthetic fiber for concrete not only for FORTA but for the Unites States. In 1979, he was hired by Rodger Lindh, FORTA Founder. Biddle’s involvement in dozens of organizations, associations, and committees over the years introduced fiber reinforcement to standard-setting industry members. He is a member of ACI Committees 302, Construction of Concrete Floors; 325, Concrete Pavements; 330, Concrete Parking Lots and Site Paving; 360, Design of Slabs on Ground; and 522, Pervious Concrete.

ACI member Doug Nagel joined the ownership group at VAA this year. The multidiscipline engineering firm of 150 employees is now privately held by 12 partners. A Senior Structural Engineer, Nagel manages work within VAA’s agribusiness and industrial sectors across North America, including the design of grain storage silos, evaluations of process enhancements, and retrofit services for owners, fabricators, and design-build contractors. He started his career at VAA as an intern. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN, and his structural experience includes steel, concrete, and slipform design. Nagel is Vice President of the Minnesota Concrete Council and a member of ACI Committee 313, Concrete Bins and Silos.

Honors and Awards

Harvey W. Parker was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Tunnelling Association and Underground Space Association (ITA). Parker served as President of the ITA from 2004 to 2007 and as ITA’s official representative and spokesperson for sustainable development to the United Nations. The award was given in honor of his significant contributions to signature tunneling projects through innovation, leadership, and expertise. Parker pioneered the development of steel fiber shotcrete in 1972. He has worked on notable projects such as the Mount Baker Ridge Tunnel in Seattle, WA. In addition, he has held adjunct or visiting teaching positions at the University of Illinois and Columbia University. He received his BS in civil engineering from Auburn Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University), Auburn, AL; his master’s degree in civil engineering from Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; and his PhD in civil engineering with a minor in geology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL. He continues his work as a geotechnical and tunnel engineer with Harvey Parker & Associates.

The American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA) recast its honorary life membership and named it in honor of Leet “Ed” Denton, noting his more than 50 years of commitment and service to the association. Denton is the retired President of Denton Enterprises, St. Clair Shores, MI. He became the first recipient of the namesake membership category. Denton was presented the award during a special ceremony at the closing banquet during ACPA’s 56th annual meeting.

ACI member Dan M. Frangopol, the inaugural Fazlur R. Khan Endowed Chair of Structural Engineering and Architecture at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, and his former postdoc Yan Liu, Associate Professor, School of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering, Wuhan, Hubei, China, are the recipients of the 2020 Raymond C. Reese Research Prize awarded by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). According to ASCE, the prize is “awarded to the author or authors of a paper in a print issue of an ASCE journal...that describes a notable achievement in research related to structural engineering and which indicates how the research can be used.” The awardees’ research was shared with the academic and professional community through the article “Utility and Information Analysis for Optimum Inspection of Fatigue-Sensitive Structures,” which appeared in the ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering, V. 145, No. 2, Feb. 2019. Frangopol is a member of ACI Committee 348, Structural Reliability and Safety, and Joint ACI-ASCE Committee 343, Concrete Bridge Design.