Fazlur Rahman Khan oathed in a renaissance in skyscraper construction during the second half of the 20th century. Khan was a pragmatic visionary; the series of progressive ideas that he brought forth for efficient high-rise construction in the 1960s and 1970s were validated in his own work, notably his efficient designs for Chicago’s 100-story John Hancock Center and 110-story Sears Tower (the tallest building in the United States since its completion in 1974).

His characteristic statement to an editor in 1974, having just been selected Construction’s Man of the Year by Engineering News Record, is commemorated on a plaque in Ontario Center, Chicago: “The technical man must not be lost in his own technology. He must be able to appreciate life; and life is not only about engineering.”

In July 1947, Lynn joined Lehigh University as Research Instructor and rose to Full Professor in 10 years. In recognition of his professional and research achievements, he was appointed to a University Distinguished Professorship in 1978.

Following the premature death of Fazlur Khan in 1982, Beedle organized the establishment at Lehigh University of the Fazlur Rahman Khan Endowed Chair.

2021 SPEAKERS

Jeanne Gang
Founding Principal and Partner
Gang Studio
Chicago, IL
Crossing Domains
February 18, 2021 (virtual event)

Jack Moehle
Professor of the Graduate School
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA
Performance-based Seismic Design of Tall Buildings
March 11, 2021 (virtual event)

P. Benson Shing
Professor, Department of Structural Engineering
University of California, San Diego
San Diego, CA
Understanding the Seismic Performance of Structural Systems through Large-scale Experiments and Computational Simulations
April 15, 2021 (virtual event)

Phillip L. Gould
Distinguished Adjunct Professor, St. Louis University and Senior Professor, Washington University
St. Louis, MO
From Slide Rule to FE Analysis: Some Highlights Along the Way
October 27, 2021

Richard Sause
Joseph T. Stuart Professor of Structural Engineering; Director, Advanced Technology for Large Structural Systems (ATLS) Center; Director, Institute for Cyber Physical Infrastructure & Energy
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, PA
A Research Perspective on Seismic Performance of Steel Building Structures
November 17, 2021

Beedle organized the establishment of the Fazlur Rahman Khan Endowed Chair at Lehigh University.