

The Fazlur Rahman Khan Distinguished Lecture Series

2007

Honoring a legacy in structural engineering and architecture

2024

<http://www.lehigh.edu/frkseries>



Fazlur Rahman Khan

1929 - 1982

Fazlur Rahman Khan ushered 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 1971, having just been selected Construction's Man of the Year by Engineering News Record, is commemorated on a plaque in Onterie Center, Chicago: "The technical man must not be lost in his own technology. He must be able to appreciate life; and life is art, drama, music, and most importantly, people."

Lynn S. Beedle

1917 - 2003

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.



2024 SPEAKERS

Armen Der Kiureghian

Taisei Professor of Civil Engineering Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley
President Emeritus, American University of Armenia (affiliate of University of California)
Challenges in Future Development of Structural Reliability Methods
February 2, 2024

Ahsan Kareem

Robert M. Moran Professor
NatHaz Modeling Laboratory
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
Swaying Skyscrapers: Unveiling the Dance Between Wind and Tall Buildings Through the Ages
March 6, 2024

Mark G. Stewart

Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Technology Sydney
New South Wales, 2007, Australia
Risk-Based Thinking for Extreme Events: What Do Terrorism and Climate Change Have in Common?
May 2, 2024

Joan R. Casas

Professor of Bridge Engineering & Structural Management, School of Civil Engineering, Technical University of Catalonia, UPC-Barcelona-Tech, Barcelona, Spain
Sustainability and Digitalization in Bridge Engineering
September 13, 2024

Allen C. Estes

Professor and Head Department of Architectural Engineering California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, CA
Architectural Engineering: Does it Have an Identity Crisis?
October 11, 2024

Michel Ghosn

Professor of Civil Engineering
The City College of the City University of New York / CUNY New York, NY
Design and Safety Assessment of Structures and Infrastructure Systems Subjected to Extreme Events in a Changing Climate
October 29, 2024

James M. Ricles

Bruce G. Johnston Professor of Structural Engineering
Director - ATLS Engineering Research Center
Director - NSF NHERI Lehigh Experimental Facility
Editor-in-Chief, Engineering Structures
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Lehigh University
Real-time Hybrid Simulation: Cyber-Physical Structural Experimentation for Improving Civil Infrastructure Resilience to Natural Hazards
November 20, 2024

SPEAKERS - 2023

 Tom O'Rourke Thomas R. Briggs Professor of Engineering Emeritus, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY <i>Next Generation Hazard Resilient Infrastructure</i> February 24, 2023	 Guy Nordenson Guy Nordenson and Associates, Partner, Structural Engineers LLP, New York, NY Professor of Architecture and Structural Engineering, School of Architecture, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ <i>Working Structures</i> March 31, 2023	 Kumares C. Sinha Edgar B. and Hedwig M. Olson Distinguished Professor of Civil Engr., Lyles School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN <i>Next Generation Urban Transportation, Urban Living, and the Role of Tall Buildings</i> April 26, 2023	 Anne S. Kiremidjian The C. L. Peck, Class of 1906 Professor in Engineering, Dept. Civil Engr and Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, Stanford University, Stanford, CA <i>Time-Dependent Earthquake Risk Assessment Modeling with Life-Cycle Analysis</i> October 27, 2023	 Jerome P. Lynch Vink Dean of Engineering, Fitzpatrick Family University Distinguished Professor of Engr., Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Duke University, Durham, NC <i>Elevating the Performance of the Built Environment through Cyberphysical Systems</i> December 4, 2023
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SPEAKERS - 2022

 Stephen J. Ressler Professor Emeritus from the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, NY. Current President of the Lehigh Valley Section, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Bethlehem, PA <i>The Ashtabula Bridge Disaster and the Advent of Civil Engineering Professionalism</i> February 18, 2022	 Adrian D. Smith Partner Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture Chicago, IL <i>Supertall Towers + Green Cities</i> March 25, 2022	 Mitsuyoshi Akiyama Professor and Chair of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan <i>Increasing the Resilience of Highway Bridges Under Multiple Hazards including Earthquake, Tsunami, Corrosion and Climate Change</i> April 29, 2022	 Billie F. Spencer, Jr. Professor and Endowed Chair of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL <i>Performance of Dynamically Excited Structures through Optimization and Monitoring</i> November 18, 2022
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SPEAKERS - 2021

 Jeanne Gang Founding Principal and Partner Studio Gang Chicago, IL <i>Crossing Domains</i> February 18, 2021 (virtual event)	 Jack Moehle Professor of the Graduate School University of California, Berkeley, CA <i>Performance-based Seismic Design of Tall Buildings</i> March 11, 2021 (virtual event)	 P. Benson Shing Professor, Department of Structural Engineering University of California, San Diego, CA <i>Understanding the Seismic Performance of Structural Systems through Large-scale Experiments and Computational Simulations</i> April 15, 2021 (virtual event)	 Phillip L. Gould Distinguished Adjunct Professor, St. Louis University and Senior Professor, Washington University, St. Louis, MO <i>From St. Louis to FEA: Some Highlights Along the Way</i> October 27, 2021	 Richard Sause Professor of Structural Engineering, Director, Advanced Technology for Large Structural Systems (ATLSS) Center, Director, Institute for Cyber Physical Infrastructure & Energy, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA <i>A Research Perspective on Seismic Performance of Steel Building Structures</i> November 17, 2021
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SPEAKERS - 2020

 Jon Pickard Principal, Pickard Chilton, New Haven, CT <i>Gracing the Sky, Enriching the City</i> February 28, 2020	 Aftab A. Mufti Emeritus Professor, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada <i>Intelligent Sensing for Innovative Structures: Development of the New Discipline of Cionics</i> October 22, 2020 (virtual event)	 Gregory Deierlein John A. Blume Professor, School of Engineering, Stanford University, Stanford, CA <i>From Performance-based Engineering to Urban Resilience</i> November 19, 2020 (virtual event)
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SPEAKERS - 2019

 Kishor Mehta P. W. Horn Professor of Civil Engineering, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX <i>Evolution of Assessment of Wind Speeds in Tornadoes</i> February 29, 2019	 SawTeen See President, See Robertson Structural Engineers, LLC, New York, NY <i>Some Long-Span and Some Tall Buildings</i> March 29, 2019	 Karl H. Frank Consultant and Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX <i>The Role of Quality Control in Some Notable Bridge Problems</i> April 12, 2019
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SPEAKERS - 2018

 Surendra P. Shah Walter P. Murphy Professor of Civil Engineering (Emeritus), Northwestern University, Evanston, IL <i>Sustainability in Concrete Construction Based on Nanotechnology</i> February 23, 2018	 Robert Sinn Principal, Thornton Tomasetti, Chicago, IL <i>From Bilbao to Jeddah: An Engineer's Journey</i> March 23, 2018	 Yozo Fujino Distinguished Professor, Institute of Advanced Sciences, Yokohama National University—Yokohama, Japan <i>Lessons Learned from 30 Years of Experience in Dynamics, Monitoring and Control of Bridges</i> April 13, 2018
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SPEAKERS - 2017

 Eugen Brühwiler Professor and Dr. Structural Engineer, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, Switzerland <i>Getting More Out of Existing Bridges</i> February 17, 2017	 Lawrence G. Griffin Senior Principal/Senior Consultant, Walter P. Moore and Associates, Inc., Austin, TX <i>Design and Construction of Cowboys Stadium</i> March 31, 2017	 Peter A. Weismantle Director of Supertall Building Technology, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture, Chicago, IL <i>Architectural Technical Design of the New Generation of Supertall Buildings</i> April 21, 2017
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SPEAKERS - 2016

 Ronald O. Hamburger Senior Principal, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc., San Francisco, CA <i>Performance-based Design: What, How, When, Why, and Why Not to Use It</i> March 4, 2016	 John Zils Senior Structural Consultant, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, LLP, Chicago, IL <i>Lessons Learned</i> April 15, 2016	 Jin-Guang Teng Chair Professor of Structural Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China <i>Structural Use of FRP Composites in Construction: Past Achievements and Future Opportunities</i> April 22, 2016
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SPEAKERS - 2015

 William Pedersen Founding Design Partner, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, New York, NY <i>Balancing</i> February 20, 2015	 Glenn R. Bell Chief Executive Officer, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Waltham, MA <i>Structural Engineering at Mid-21st Century: Reengineering Our Roles</i> March 20, 2015	 Peter Marti Professor of Structural Engineering, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland <i>Science and Art of Structural Engineering</i> April 17, 2015
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SPEAKERS - 2014

 James R. Harris Principal, J.R. Harris & Company, Denver, CO <i>The Evolution of Building Design to Resist Earthquakes</i> February 15, 2014	 Jon D. Magnusson Senior Principal, Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Seattle, WA <i>Structure Becoming Architecture: Case Studies of Aesthetics, Form and Efficiency</i> March 22, 2014	 Charles H. Thornton Chairman, Charles H. Thornton & Company, LLC, New York, NY <i>Renaissance, Rebirth and Disruptive Innovation</i> April 19, 2014
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SPEAKERS - 2013

 R. Shankar Nair Senior Vice President, exp US Services Inc., Chicago, IL <i>The Evolution of the Skyscraper</i> February 16, 2013	 John M. Kulicki Chairman/CEO, Modjeski and Masters Inc., Mechanicsburg, PA <i>Observations on AASHTO Bridge Design</i> March 22, 2013	 Alfredo H-S. Ang Research Professor, University of California, Irvine, CA <i>Minimizing the Effects of Uncertainties in Developing Reliability-Based Design Criteria</i> April 19, 2013
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SPEAKERS - 2012

 Ross B. Corotis Emeritus Business Challenge Professor of Engineering, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO <i>Natural Hazard Risk: Public Perceptions & Political Perversities</i> February 17, 2012	 Sharon L. Wood Robert L. Parker, Sr. Professor in Engineering and Chair, Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX <i>Opportunities and Challenges for Infrastructure Monitoring</i> March 23, 2012	 Ted V. Galambos Professor Emeritus, Structural Engineering, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN <i>The Safety of Bridges</i> April 20, 2012
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SPEAKERS - 2011

 David Scott Practice Leader, Arup, Americas Building, New York, NY <i>Extreme Engineering</i> February 18, 2011	 Chris D. Poland Chairman & CEO, Degenkolb Engineers, San Francisco, CA <i>Building Disaster Resilient Communities</i> April 8, 2011	 David Billington Gordon Y.S. Wu Professor of Engineering, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ <i>Personal and Professional Recollections of Fazlur Khan</i> September 9, 2011	 Masayoshi Nakashima Professor, Kyoto University, Disaster Prevention, Research Institute, Kyoto, Japan <i>Safeguarding Quality of Life: The Role of Large-Scale Testing</i> September 23, 2011
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SPEAKERS - 2010

 Zdeněk P. Bažant McCormick Institute and Walter P. Murphy Professor, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL <i>Progress Engendered by Collapses of Record Setting Structures: Malpasset Dam, World Trade Center Towers and KB Bridge in Palau</i> February 26, 2010	 Ron Klemencic President, Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Seattle, WA <i>OUTRAGEOUS!</i> March 19, 2010	 John E. Breen Professor/Nasser I. Al-Rashid Chair in Civil Engineering, The University of Texas, Austin, TX <i>The ABCD's of Bridge Building: Affordable, Beautiful, Constructible, Durable</i> April 16, 2010
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SPEAKERS - 2009

 Leslie E. Robertson Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P., New York, NY <i>The Architect and the Structural Engineer - Partners in Design</i> February 20, 2009	 William F. Baker Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Chicago & London <i>Engineering the World's Tallest: Burj Dubai</i> March 20, 2009	 Bruce R. Ellingwood Distinguished Professor & Raymond Allen Jones Chair, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA <i>Abnormal Loads & Progressive Collapse - Assessment & Mitigation of Risk</i> April 17, 2009
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SPEAKERS - 2008

 Richard Tomasetti Thornton Tomasetti, Inc., New York, NY <i>Engineering of Major Architecture, Then and Now</i> February 15, 2008	 Jeremy Isenberg Past-President and CEO, Weidinger Associates, Inc., New York, NY <i>Structural Design for Security—Past Accomplishments and Future Directions</i> March 14, 2008	 John W. Fisher Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA <i>Overcoming Barriers to Durable Steel Bridge Systems</i> April 18, 2008
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SPEAKERS - 2007

 Mark Sarkisian Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, San Francisco, CA <i>Khan's Vision</i> February 9, 2007	 Man-Chung Tang Chairman of the Board, T.Y. Lin International, San Francisco, CA <i>Why? Why Not? What If?</i> March 16, 2007	 W. Gene Corley Senior Vice President, CTLGroup, Skokie, IL <i>Learning from the Attacks on an American Icon - World Trade Center Building: Performance Study</i> April 20, 2007
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Fazlur Rahman Khan Endowed Chair of Structural Engineering and Architecture <http://www.lehigh.edu/~dmf206>

Lehigh University endowed a chair in structural engineering and architecture in Khan's honor and in August 2006 appointed Professor Dan M. Frangopol, an expert in structural reliability, optimization, civil infrastructure systems, and life-cycle engineering, as the university's inaugural holder of the Fazlur Rahman Khan Endowed Chair of Structural Engineering and Architecture. Dr. Frangopol is the initiator and organizer of the Fazlur Rahman Khan Distinguished Lecture Series.