

OUR MEMBERS

Gate names Tuttle chief engineer for structures

Gate Precast recently named Joe Tuttle chief engineer for structures at its Jacksonville, Ark., office. In his new role, Tuttle provides structural precast concrete engineering services for Gate's nine plants.

"Gate's recent focus has been on investment in infrastructure to diversify its precast concrete product offerings," says Steve Brock, Gate's senior vice president of engineering. Gate's Arkansas location provides supplementary engineering and detailing services for the precast concrete supplier.

Tuttle has begun with the design of the North American Properties Assemblage parking structure in Tallahassee, Fla., designed by M-A Architects. Materials for the project will be produced in Gate's Jacksonville, Fla., prefabricated concrete systems manufacturing facility.

Tuttle earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Oklahoma and holds a professional engineering license in several states within Gate's market area. He has eight years of design experience and is a member of the PCI Building Code Committee, Connections Committee, and Industry Handbook Committee, and the ASCE 7 Wind Subcommittee. Tuttle was also a member of the Blue Ribbon Review Team for the eighth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete* and is a Leadership PCI graduate.

—Source: Gate Precast Co.



Joe Tuttle

ElSafty chosen as UNF 2018 Distinguished Professor

Adel ElSafty, PCI Foundation Academic Council chair and trustee and a professor in the School of Engineering at the University of North Florida (UNF) in Jacksonville, has been chosen for UNF's 2018 Distinguished Professor Award. He was named the runner-up for the award in both 2016 and 2017.



Adel ElSafty

ElSafty was named PCI Educator of the Year in 2015 and is the first PCI Foundation grant recipient to be named a trustee. The PCI Foundation awarded grant to establish its first engineering design studio in 2009. He also received the Florida Prestressed Concrete Association Education Foundation Award and Recognition for Outstanding Achievement. ElSafty regularly heads a team in PCI's Big Beam Contest, and in 2012, his team received first place in the Southeast region.

Among the many achievements cited for ElSafty's being chosen for the award are his being a 2015–16 Fulbright U.S. Scholar and a 2018 Fulbright Specialist and helping to secure millions of dollars in research funds. The Distinguished Professor Award is presented annually to a UNF faculty member who has a balanced record of distinction at UNF in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, or administration may nominate a faculty member for the award, which includes an honorarium of \$6000, a commemorative plaque, and the listing of the recipient's name on a permanent university plaque.

"Having been awarded the PCI Foundation grant to establish the first engineering design studio played a key role, along with affiliation with the prestigious PCI Foundation, and distinguished me from other faculty," ElSafty says. "Introducing new courses of prestressed concrete and engaging students in research, competitions, and industrial experience helped. The great support I've been receiving from the PCI Foundation was a key."

ElSafty will be presented with the award and will speak at the fall UNF convocation on September 7, 2018.

—Source: University of North Florida



Irwin J. Speyer, PE, FPCI, FACI, died June 2, 2018. He was 91.

At 17, Speyer went to Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., for the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program. He was inducted at Fort Dix in New Jersey in March 1945 and spent the remainder of World War II stationed at a listening post in Alaska.

Speyer graduated from the City College of New York in 1950 with a BS in civil engineering. He joined the Freyssinet Co., which was a French engineering firm specializing in prestressed concrete structures.

Speyer said, “I wanted to be in the precast concrete business because it was new. It wasn’t steel; it wasn’t reinforced concrete, which was old. This was something new.” Speyer was there from the beginning and maintained his enthusiasm for precast concrete his entire life.

When Freyssinet closed his American office and returned to France in 1961, Speyer started his own firm, Irwin J. Speyer Consulting Engineer, as a single-person practitioner.

Speyer’s contributions to the precast/prestressed concrete industry have been extraordinary. He served on many PCI committees since joining as a professional member in 1958, just four years after the institute was founded. He has served on every Industry Handbook Committee since the third edition, published in 1985, and was coeditor of the fourth edition, which was published in 1992.

Perhaps his most significant contribution to several editions of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete* was his constant questioning of what to include. He asked, “Have you thought of this?” “Is this material recognized by the model codes?” “Are you sure that’s right?” This thoroughness led to frequent improvements.

In 2017, PCI dedicated the eighth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook* to Speyer.

Speyer also served on the PCI Connection Details Committee from 1962 to 2006 and was the editor of the *PCI Manual for Structural Design of Architectural Precast Concrete*, which was published in 1977. Speyer was a member of the Parking Structures Committee since its formation in 1979; the Load Bearing Wall Panel

Committee, on which he spearheaded a response to the federal government’s new regulations on progressive collapse with the publication in 1976 of “Considerations for the Design of Precast Concrete Bearing Wall Buildings to Withstand Abnormal Loads” in *PCI Journal*; the Technical Activities Committee; and the Building Code Committee, which he chaired in 1969 and again from 1986 to 1989.

Speyer also served on the PCI Board of Directors from 1965 to 1966 and again from 1993 to 1994.

He served twice on the *fib* Congress Planning Committee, representing the interests of PCI for two joint PCI/*fib* conventions.

Speyer was the recipient of several PCI awards. He was named a PCI Fellow in the inaugural 1994 class and a PCI Titan in 2004, when 50 members who had made significant contributions to PCI and the precast/prestressed concrete industry were honored as part of PCI’s 50th anniversary. He was honored once again in 2008 with PCI’s highest award, the PCI Medal of Honor.

In addition to his many contributions to PCI, Speyer also contributed to the advancement of the industry by being involved in the code-writing efforts of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) by virtue of his contributions on the ACI 318 Committee. He served as a member of the committee that developed the 1963, 1971, and 1995 building codes and was a voting member of subcommittees in 1983, 1986, and 1989. He also served as a consulting member for the 1999 and 2002 building codes. For these and other contributions to ACI, Speyer was made an ACI Fellow.

Perhaps Speyer’s most noteworthy accomplishment was that he was a one-man operation for the bulk of his career but was always there for PCI and other organizations and made contributions far beyond what would even be expected from someone with the backing of a staff. Speyer and his peers are the “shoulders of giants” that we all stand on today in our practice of precast concrete engineering. We are watching the passing of a generation of Titans.

Contributions in Speyer’s name may be made to the PCI Foundation at <http://www.pci-foundation.org/index.cfm/donate/donate> or PCI Foundation, 200 W. Adams St., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL, as well as the Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, 31 Glengary Road, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

—Helm Wilden

>> PCI recently certified the following plants. For an explanation of the certification designations, visit http://www.pci.org/PCI_Certification/Plant_Certification/.

- Leesburg Concrete Co. Inc., Leesburg, Fla.: C1A
- Saramac 9229-0188 Quebec Inc., Terrebonne, QC, Canada: A1
- Spancrete, Crystal Lake, Ill.: C2

Smith elected CEO of Smith-Midland

Smith-Midland Corp. has appointed Ashley Smith chief executive officer, effective May 24, 2018, replacing Rodney Smith, who will remain as chairman of the Board of Directors. Smith, son of Rodney Smith, chairman, began his full-time career with the company 33 years ago in the Sales and Marketing Department. He ran the licensing division for Easi-Set Worldwide from 1988 to 1991. Transferring back to Smith-Midland as vice president of sales, he rose to become president and chief operating officer in 2008. He has been involved with management and oversight of all company divisions throughout his tenure at Smith-Midland and has been a board director since 1994.

—Source: Midland Advertising + Design



Ashley Smith

Smith-Midland signs largest contract in company's history

FAM Construction LLC (a Ferrovia Agroman US and Allan Myers joint venture) has awarded Smith-Midland the contract to supply 900,000 ft² (80,000 m²) of SoftSound noise-absorptive precast concrete soundwall panels for the Interstate 66 (I-66) Outside the Beltway Express Lanes project in northern Virginia.

The 22.5 mi (36.3 km) long I-66 project will provide two express lanes alongside three regular lanes from Interstate 495 to Route 29 in Gainesville, Va., along with other amenities and space reserved for future transit options. The Midland, Va., plant will begin production in mid-2018, with final project completion scheduled for 2022.

—Source: Midland Advertising + Design

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