



In Memoriam: Stephen Taylor



Stephen Taylor, PE, M.ASCE, senior vice president at Mott MacDonald's Boston office, passed away on January 12, 2019, after a brief illness. Taylor earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1976 at the University of Leeds, West Yorkshire, England. His career took him first to South Africa and then to several signature projects around the world; of particular interest, he helped with the preliminary design of the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge over the Thames. He joined Mott MacDonald in 1993 to work on the Boston Central Artery project known as the "Big Dig," and moved to the United States in 1995 to complete the Central Artery design and provide specialist advice during construction.

This project included a series of world-record-setting

jacked boxes; one of these boxes required the largest man-made block of frozen ground ever created. The project was awarded ASCE's Charles Pankow Award for Innovation in 2003. A paper Taylor wrote about this project is available at arema.org/files/library/2002_Conference_Proceedings/00030.pdf. He also published a paper about tunnel jacking in the Geo-Congress 1998 Proceedings, available in the ASCE Library.

In 2005, Queen Elizabeth II named Taylor a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE). He served as the chair of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC/MA) Engineering Excellence Awards; the Awards Committee so appreciated his leadership that they gave him the title chair emeritus after he completed his chairmanship. He is remembered as a gifted engineer, a devoted husband and father, and a warm, caring person who mentored dozens of people to become better engineers and better people.

Peirce Honored by Local Peers



In February 2019, the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia elected **John J. Peirce, PE, P.L.S., D.GE, F.ASCE**, as its 2019 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year. The award recognizes a standout

local engineer who demonstrates professional excellence and community stewardship and leadership. "John's contributions to the community have made a direct impact on the Delaware Valley," said **Bob Wright, PE, M.ASCE**, co-chair of the Delaware Valley Engineers Week

Committee. "We admire John's continued commitment to educating the next generation for our industry and his emphasis on continuing education among professionals."

Peirce earned a bachelor's degree in soil mechanics and a master's degree in geotechnical engineering from Drexel University. He worked with the Conduit & Foundation Corporation and **Schnabel Foundation Company** in the areas of heavy and highway construction and excavation support and underpinning. His diverse experience at both companies inspired Peirce to found his own business, Peirce Engineering. His firm has worked on a number of notable projects, including the restoration of the Historic Fairmount

Waterworks, the Comcast Innovation Tower, New York City's World Trade Center Ground Zero access bridges, underpinning and excavation support for the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and excavation support for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), which, at 72 ft deep, is perhaps the deepest building excavation in the city.

Peirce has been involved with a number of professional organizations, including ASCE, the G-I, the Academy of Geo-Professionals, the American Society of Highway Engineers, The Moles, the International Association of Foundation Drilling, the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association, the Pile Driving Contractors Association, the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Association, and the Eng-Tips Round Table. Peirce also serves as an adjunct professor at Villanova University's College of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

In response to his election as the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, Peirce said, "It's exciting, but it's still hard to believe because my firm is so small. My focus is on such a small niche, and my work literally gets buried. It makes me proud to be recognized by my peers and other professionals in the industry. Their recognition is an honor that I am truly thankful to have received."

Brettmann Chairs DFI Trust



Tracy Brettmann, PE, D.GE, M.ASCE, executive vice president of A.H. Beck Foundation Company, has been elected chair of the Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) Educational Trust

Board of Trustees. He succeeds Dan Dragone, who remains a trustee. Brettmann joined the DFI Educational Trust Board of Directors in 2012 and has served as a

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