



MAY, 2019

## Christine Keville 2019 Moles President

CHRISTINE KEVILLE, FCMAA, NAC, Hon.D.Eng. is President and Chief Executive Officer of Keville Enterprises, Inc. As the Founder and Incorporator of Keville Enterprises, she is accountable for the overall coordination, direction, and supervision of this 150 person Construction Management firm spanning eight offices across the country. Ms. Keville earned her Master's degree from Northeastern University, her Bachelor's degree from North Adams State, and is a Massachusetts licensed Construction Supervisor.

Ms. Keville is actively engaged in promoting the heavy construction industry as evidenced by her involvement in several professional organizations, including the National Academy of Construction (NAC), the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), and The Moles. Additionally, she is equally committed to encouraging students to pursue careers in the construction industry and is heavily involved in academia. She is a Trustee and Corporator at Wentworth Institute of Technology and served as Wentworth's Commencement Speaker in 2016, where she received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Engineering. She also serves as Chairman of the Civil & Environmental Engineering Industrial Advisory Board at Northeastern University. Ms. Keville is the first woman to serve as CMAA's National Chair, Foundation Chair, and Chancellor of the College of Fellows. She has received numerous industry and humanitarian awards including: WTS Boston's Woman of the Year in 2000; Virginia Tech's Outstanding Woman in Construction in 2004; Patriots Trail Girl Scouts' Leading Women Award in 2005; Northeastern University's Outstanding Engineering Alumni Award in 2006, and CMAA's N.E. Chapter's Distinguished Service Award in 2011.

Christine's association and firsthand knowledge of The Moles goes back to 1984 when her father, Francis Keville - former Director of Construction of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority who led one of the largest public works program in the country - was inducted into the organization. Christine still remembers how excited and humbled her dad was to receive such an honor. When Christine was inducted as a Mole in 2006, she fully understood why her dad was so proud to become a member. She quickly immersed herself into the organization and served as a Trustee for three years beginning in 2012. In 2015, she was elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Awards Committee and has served diligently in executive positions on her path to becoming President. In accepting the gavel (see related article on p. 4), Christine adds another "first" to her list of accolades, becoming the first woman President of The Moles.

Christine resides in Green Harbor, Massachusetts with her husband Martin McCormack, a District Chief in the Boston Fire Department, and her daughter Thérèse, who is currently in middle school.

Other officers elected for 2019-2020 include First Vice President GARY ALMERARIS, Skanska USA Civil Northeast; Second Vice President PAUL C. SCHMALL, Moretrench; Treasurer CHARLES J. MONTALBANO, Railroad Construction Co.; Secretary DONALD P. DOBBS, The Lane Construction Corp. (ret.) and Sergeant-At-Arms GREGORY A. HILL, Kiewit Infrastructure Co. Trustees for 2019-2020 are: Rolando E. Acosta; Gaby Antoun; Cosema "Connie" Crawford; Michael A. D'Annunzio; Kirk D. Junco (Past President); Jeffrey M. Levy; Richard D. MacDonald (Past President); Michael F. McKenna; John H. O'Keefe; Jesse Ottesen; Brian J. Reilly; Milo E. Riveroso; Michael Ryan; Joseph A. Sopko; and Christopher S. Traylor (Past President). For a full list of committee members, visit The Moles website's "About Us" tab.



**Christine Keville**

## Moles in the News

**EDWARD PLOTKIN** was recently honored by The City College of the City University of New York at the 2019 Commencement with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree. Ed earned both his Bachelors and Masters degree from CCNY, which makes it fitting that he also received his Ph.D from CCNY.

Ed is a Professional Engineer in NY, NJ, CT, MA and Washington, D.C. He is a member of many professional organizations, including: The Municipal Engineers of New York City and the New York State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE, Westchester Chapter), both of which he served as President.

Ed has worked in all facets of the industry. As a contractor with Maclean Grove; as a designer, as Assistant Director with DeLeuw Cather (now Parsons Transportation); and while in government, as Westchester County's Commissioner of Public Works.

CCNY previously awarded Ed the Alumni Association Service Award and Townsend Harris Medal, which recognizes excellence in post-graduate achievement. Congratulations to Ed!



Vincent Siefert founded a non-profit organization, Bridge to Cure, with the hope of joining the NYC Construction Industry in the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome the challenges created by epilepsy. On November 16, 2018, Bridge to Cure threw its Inaugural Pre-Holiday fundraising bash that raised \$38,000. New members are welcome to join: [www.bridgetocure.com](http://www.bridgetocure.com) Epilepsy is the most common neurological disorder in the U.S. after Alzheimer's disease and stroke, yet of major chronic conditions, it is among the least understood and funded.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Clambake**  
**August 6, 2019**

**Members' Fall Dinner**  
**November 13, 2019**

**Annual Awards Dinner**  
**January 29, 2020**

**Winter Meeting**  
**February 27—March 1, 2020**

Event details are available on The Moles' website, [www.themoles.net](http://www.themoles.net). Ticket purchases and links for hotel reservations for the Clambake and Awards Dinner will be available online approximately two months in advance.

## The Gavin Foundation

Traditionally, The Moles strictly relates to issues associated with Heavy Construction. However, some crises so permeate our society, they reverberate throughout the workplace and our families; whether they have already affected us or may very well affect us in the future, they warrant our attention and compassion. The news and medical field warn us daily of the nation's substance abuse epidemic, where no one is immune to its direct or indirect fallout. Moles member Tony Barila has asked that we share his own personal tragedy in hopes that members learn from his loss and if so inclined, join his noble fight to reduce the pain from substance abuse felt by families and communities by supporting the Gavin Foundation.

Tony Barila's son, Jeff, was only 12 years old when he developed an onset of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) which would have a huge impact on the rest of his life. He managed to "fight" his horrible affliction and graduated from Roger Williams University in R.I. in 2005, becoming a successful real estate broker in the Boston area, but his OCD would become the root cause of his addiction to alcohol in later years. He underwent treatment programs, some voluntary, some court-mandated, but relapsed along the way, leading to a conviction for a 3rd DUI and a nine-month sentence at the Middlesex Correctional Facility in Billerica, MA. In early January 2019, he was released with probation restrictions.

About 3 months prior to his release, Jeff started to meet with two therapists from the Gavin Foundation in South Boston. Jeff developed a great connection with them, which is critical in treatment for substance abuse and Tony only wishes that his son had met them much earlier in his life. The mission of the Gavin Foundation, made possible from a grant from the Commonwealth's Health Department, is to assist members of society overcome substance abuse, whether alcohol or drugs, providing a full spectrum of services ranging from prevention programs for middle schoolers; psychiatric evaluations; residential and intensive outpatient programs; housing and employment assistance, and intensive counseling programs for inmates leaving prison to be better prepared to reenter the real world (for more, visit [www.gavinfoundation.org](http://www.gavinfoundation.org))

Unfortunately, upon release Jeff renewed contact with several former "friends" who were into drugs and based upon what was found among his personal effects, he died from an accidental drug overdose. Tony believes that if only Jeff had been a part of the Gavin Foundation years or even months earlier, he would not have died just two days shy of his 37th birthday.

Recently, the national mindset about substance abuse has shifted from being the result of a character flaw to one whose basis is a disease. Removing this traditional social stigma reflects a positive step in improving diagnosis and treatment, however, significant work remains, including greater awareness and education of our youth; better prevention methods utilizing all the resources of local, state and federal law enforcement; reducing the widespread prescribing of opioids; curtailing the illegal entry of fentanyl by China, and broader scientific research sponsored by the federal government with incentives to the pharmaceutical companies to develop medications that will beneficially direct dopamine in the brains of those that have addictions. The fight is too real and personal to be unaffected.

Tony can be reached at [tbarila@gmail.com](mailto:tbarila@gmail.com) or (508) 958-3563.

# A Moment of Silence

**Brian J. Flaherty**, a well-known Moles member since 1987, was most recently a Senior VP at STV Inc.. Brian passed on April 15, at 77, following an illness. Over the course of his long career in the design and construction industry, Brian developed a reputation as a strong manager and supervisor of large-scale public projects for government and transportation agencies. He was an avid boatsman who enjoyed the Chesapeake Bay area. He is survived by his wife Louise and five sons, Michael (also a Moles member), Brian, Kevin, Paul and Dennis and their families.

**Michael Paquet**, a Moles member since 2003, passed away surrounded by his family on December 7, 2018, of brain cancer. With his brother John, he started M.J. Paquet Inc., which specialized in roadway and airport projects in the Tri State.

**Stanley Merjan**. As recently as May 2018, Stan (a Moles member for 56 years), enjoyed being the center of attention at our Moles Dinner as we celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a cake that used a model of a BG 30 drill rig as the candle holder! Stan passed away on February 7, 2019, and is survived by a son, two daughters and four grandchildren.

**Don U. Deere**, the 1983 Non-Member Awardee, was recognized as one of the leading geologists in the United States and was appointed by President Reagan as Chairman of the US Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board in 1989. Don passed away at the age of 95 on Jan 14, 2018.

**Jack Leonard**, the legendary Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer at Morrison-Knudsen, Jack passed away at the age of 94 in Boise, Idaho. An MIT graduate in the class of 1947, he was inducted into the Moles in 1979. Known as

a giant in the construction industry, but ironically not in physical stature, at MIT he was the coxswain who guided the varsity crew to upset both Harvard's crew and the storied University of Washington crew (ref: Boys in the Boat) to win the National Championships.

**Don Stager**. A resident of Woodside California, Don passed away on March 6, 2019. Don was the President and CEO of the Dillingham Corporation. A Moles member since 1986, he was responsible for the construction of engineering marvels from Hong Kong to Sri Lanka to Bolivia which included bridges, airports and embassies.



Stan (above left) with Tony Mazzo and Peter Schneidkraut at the May 2018 Members Dinner.

## Winter Meeting at the Boca Beach Club!

Last February's Winter Meeting in Boca Raton, FL in a nutshell: great food & drink, sunshine, laughs, golf, beach! Program Committee Chairman Mike McKenna organized the Saturday morning lecture, "20/20 Vision" - The Legal, Tax and Economic Climate for the Heavy Construction Industry", with presentations by Jack Callahan (CohnReznick), Shawn Farrell and George Pallas (Cohen Seglias) and video by AGC Economist Ken Simonson. Steve Muck briefed the group on TyBot, the autonomous rebar tying robot he developed, and the merits of expending resources on R&D for the heavy construction industry.

Join us next year as we return to the Boca Beach Club February 27 - March 1, 2020! Details and reservation link will be up on the website's calendar page shortly.

At right, George Pallas, Joe Malandro and Shawn Farrell "talk shop". Far right, a tantalizing view that greeted guests daily!



# ANNUAL MAY MEMBERS DINNER

**I**t was a busy day at Club 101 on May 1<sup>st</sup>, where two committee meetings (Program and Education) occurred simultaneously along with an orientation meeting for the Moles member “Champions” of each college and university participating with the new Moles Charitable Fund Scholarship Program.

The technical presentation which began at 5:00 p.m. was in the format of a panel discussion addressing the advances and advantages of robotics on construction sites. The role of panel mediator was assumed by Moles Member Stephen Muck, Chairman and CEO of Brayman Construction Corp. and Co-Founder and CEO of TyBot, LLC. Stephen recently released TyBot, an autonomous rebar-tying robot, for which he was recognized in 2017 as one of ENR’s Top 25 Newsmaker Award recipients and in 2018, he received the Associated General Contractors of America’s first ever Innovation Award. Other members of the panel were robotic experts Mike Mahan, a Managing Director at Stanley Ventures, Curtis Rodgers, an industrial technologist and investor at Brick & Mortar Ventures, Steve Pierz, the Chief Innovation Officer of Fastbrick Robotics Ltd and Jeremy Searock, Co-Founder of Advanced Construction Robotics, Inc.

The panel focused on the current state-of-the-art robots actually performing repetitive tasks on construction projects that many in attendance could relate to repetitive tasks on their own individual projects that are very expensive to perform due to the difficulty of finding individuals to per-



form the work efficiently. One must consider why not have a robot to tie rebar or place brick or concrete blocks, replacing conventional means in which employers very often experience shortages of experienced individuals to perform those repetitive tasks.

The Business Dinner was attended by 235 Moles members who witnessed our first woman President, Christine Keville, accept the gavel from outgoing President Kirk Junco. After thanking Kirk for his excellent service to The Moles over the last year, Christine recalled her memory of the day in 1984 when her father Frank Keville was notified of his selection into The Moles. For Christine, accepting this honor was not only a highlight in her professional career thus far, but a personal achievement, a thank you, to her first mentor, her father.

Bob Radske, our always present Moles photographer, was awarded the Ralph Atwater Moles Service Award for his extraordinary service to The Moles. Bob has for many years attended nearly every Moles dinner, Clambake and Students Day tour to memorialize Moles events. Guests realized Bob had no idea he was going to be given the award because as Award Committee Chairman Paul Schmall started to announce the award winner, Bob got out of his seat to get into position to take a photograph of the recipient! Bob’s expensive camera with the telescopic lens probably would not work very well for him to take a “selfie”. A substitute photographer immediately filled in to provide the below photo of Bob being presented with the Award.



*At Left*, President Christine Keville officially receives the gavel from 2018 President Kirk D. Junco.

*Above*, Robert K. “Bob” Radske stepped away from behind the camera to accept the 2019 Ralph Atwater Moles Service Award.

# ANNUAL MAY MEMBERS DINNER (con't.)

After the presentation of the 40-year Life Certificate to Bob Hill (*below, left*) and 50-year Certificate to Richard N. "Dick" Weeks, (*below, right*) President Keville welcomed the thirty-one new Moles members into the organization and presented them with their New Member Certificates. President Keville closed the meeting by inviting all to re-convene at the NYAC in Pelham NY, for our Clambake event on August 6<sup>th</sup>.



## Clambake 2019 August 6th at Travers Island

**P**reparations are underway to make this year's Clambake the one not to miss! Come to the New York Athletic Club at Travers Island in Pelham, NY and enjoy a buffet lunch, beer tent, music, lawn games, surf and turf dinner, golf and more!

Online ticket purchases will be available on The Moles website, [www.themoles.net](http://www.themoles.net) in mid-June, when invitations are mailed.

Back by popular demand will be the display of antique cars! To showcase how far cars have come, if you have an electric car, consider adding it to the growing collection! Contact Tom Groark at [tgroark@themoles.net](mailto:tgroark@themoles.net).



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



**New Members:** (left—right): Jack Mulvoy, Mark Schiller, Michael Tritt, Julio Velez, Tony Canale, Danielle Thompson, Mike Rispin, Joseph Sheehan, Joseph J. Ferrara and Patrick Trainor.

**Christopher Adams**, as the current VP of Operations and partner at Silverite Construction., has been associated with major projects for the MTA, DEP and other major agencies. He is an expert in metal fabrication along with welding, machining, extruding and metal forming techniques.

**Robert A. Briant Jr.** is the CEO at the very influential organization The Utility and Transportation Contractors of New Jersey. He has also been active within the American Road Builders Association (ARTBA) as well as the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA). He focuses much of his efforts on improving funding and the regulatory environment of our industry.

**Peter V. Brindley** serves as Posillico Inc.'s Senior VP and Chief Operating Officer. Peter has been involved with major road and bridge reconstruction projects for 30 years throughout the NYC area. While serving as a Lieutenant in the Army Corp of Engineers, Peter supervised diversified road and bridge projects.

**Jeffrey M. Brown**, a graduate of Texas Tech, is presently the Operations Manager at Tutor Perini Civil. A well-respected construction professional in the NY metropolitan area, Jeff has been associated with major construction contracts at Hudson Yards; Gateway Tunnel open cut tunnel portion; Tappan Zee Bridge; World Trade Center; the Whitestone Bridge and the AirTrain Terminal at Jamaica.

**Tony D. Canale** is currently an Associate Partner with MRCE and recently was the

lead geotechnical engineer for the NYS Thruway Authority on the Mario Cuomo Bridge project. He has been involved in numerous projects in the NY Metro area including the playing-field ground improvements at the new Citi Field. Tony is an adjunct professor at Manhattan College and lectures at many professional forums.

**James T. Cleary** is the President of J T Cleary Inc., a company he founded in 1995. The company focuses on major marine construction and dredging projects on the Eastern seaboard. Jim is well known for his exceptional planning skills, innovative design capabilities and expert knowledge of marine infrastructure.

**John V. Crecco**, as a VP of Operations at Skanska USA Civil, John has had extensive experience managing major projects, such as the \$1.3 bil. dollar Croton Filtration Plant; the FDR East Side Drive reconstruction project; the WTC Transportation Hub, and currently the Farley Building-Moynihan Train Hall Project.

**Jayne Czik** gained extensive experience in procurement law while serving as Deputy General Counsel at the MTA. Now, as VP and Chief Counsel at Citnalta Construction, Jayne oversees the company's construction-related contracts, risk management and compliance matters.

**Sanjeev Dhawan** is owner and President of Unicorn Construction Enterprises Inc., a company he founded in 1997. Over the last 22 years, Unicorn has built a solid reputation as a highly qualified and experienced constructor of transportation

facilities, roads and bridges in the Metropolitan NYC area. Sanjeev is a graduate of Cornell University and is a Licensed Professional Engineer.

**Geoffrey Fairclough**, VP of Field Operations for Schiavone Construction, oversees all NY projects. He has extensive experience in both underground construction techniques, as well as road and bridge expertise. Jeff is involved with both the reconstruction of the Myrtle Ave Viaduct and a WMATA Design-Build Potomac Yards Metrorail Station.

**Joseph J. Ferrara** has facilitated the supply of concrete to major projects in the NY area for the past thirty years. Joe parlayed his accounting and law experience to promote ethical and quality infrastructure construction. Joe is an active board member of the National Ready-Mixed Concrete Association and several regional concrete associations.

**John Giarrusso** is Vice President of Field Operations for Citnalta Construction Corp, overseeing infrastructure projects such as the Hicksville platform and station reconstruction and the Enhanced Station Initiative projects for the MTA.

**Robert J. "BJ" Haegele II** has worked in the foundation installation and underground construction segment of the heavy construction industry. BJ is VP at American Pile and Foundation, where he oversees and develops specialty foundation work including installation of piles, caissons, drilled shafts, soil retention and soil remediation improvements.

## The Class of 2019 (continued)



**New Members:** (l-r): Richard Ocken, Sanjeev Dhawan, Robert Haegele, John Giarrusso, Geoffrey Fairclough, Jayne Czik, Pablo Lemus, Chris Adams, Paul Martin, Lucian Spiteri, Robert Pine, Larry Melton, John Crecco and Alan Ringen.

**Pablo A. Lemus** received his BSCE and MSCE degrees from NJIT and has worked on notable projects including the Pulaski Skyway Project #3 and Second Ave Subway 96<sup>th</sup> Street Station in NYC. Pablo is Project Manager at CCA Civil, where he manages heavy highway, movable bridges, tunnel and wastewater treatment plant projects and has actively volunteered at The Moles Students Day for the past decade.

**Paul D. Martin** is the COO at McCrossin Foundations, specializing in pioneering rapid, sustainable geotechnical installations throughout eight northeastern states. Paul has extensive supervision experience in drilling from his work on slurry wall support tiebacks at the Goldman Sax project in Jersey City and the World Trade Center.

**Larry L. Melton Jr.**, as a long-time employee at Bechtel, managed major projects such as Boston's Central Artery; JFK AirTrain; WMATA extension to Dulles Airport and the Edmonton Valley Line LRT in Alberta, Canada. Larry is currently the President and CEO of LMJ & Associates, LLC. and is a decorated Marine Corp Officer, who served in Desert Storm.

**Jack M. Mulvoy**, a registered PE in 26 states and DC, is the Engineering Manager for DSI's tunneling and underground support products throughout North America. He has been involved in numerous major tunneling projects associated with light rail, heavy rail, water

tunnels and mining projects in major cities in the U.S.

**Richard C. Ocken** is President of MLF Contracting Corp, a new heavy civil general contracting firm. Richard has 30 years' experience in public works projects, having served as a Deputy Commissioner with the NYC DDC from 1997–2004, and subsequently with The LiRo Group and Judlau Contracting Inc.

**Robert K. Pine Jr.** is the Operations Executive for the New England region for Skanska USA Civil Northeast. Rob has over 25 years experience in heavy civil construction projects, which include Boston Landing Station, the Longfellow Bridge Rehabilitation and the South Boston Waterfront Transportation Center.

**Alan R. Ringen** is a senior construction executive with over 35 years of experience on geotechnical projects with emphasis on specialty grouting, ground stabilization and seismic mitigation work. He is a Senior Vice President of JAFEC USA Inc. located in San Jose, California.

**Michael P. Rispin**, a VP at Dyno Nobel, works out of Salt Lake City UT, where he oversees the blasting systems for drill & blast excavations. Michael was inducted in 2015 into the International Mining Technology Hall of Fame for his contributions to the development of the wet shotcrete process.

**Mark A. Schiller**, a career employee of The Lane Construction Corp., administered numerous projects for WMATA, and major highway and airport projects in the DC, Virginia, Maryland area. Currently, Mark is Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer for all of Lane's US operational activities.

**Joseph F. Sheehan.** As Managing Director of EE Cruz, Joe currently directs large-scale infrastructure civil construction projects throughout the NY and NJ area. A Villanova grad, he previously was the Senior VP at Posillico Civil and was instrumental in facilitating their business expansion efforts in the Tri State area.

**Michael F. Smithson** has 25 years experience in the underground construction industry which includes small and large diameter sewer, water and transit tunnels utilizing open mode, Earth Pressure Balance and Slurry TBM machines. He served as chair of the 2016 World Tunnel Congress held in San Francisco.

**Lucian P. Spiteri** has been with Moretrench since graduating from Manhattan College with a BSCE, now as its Chief Grouting Engineer. Lucian has made significant contributions to the underground construction industry, particularly in the field of ground improvement using various grouting techniques and has been instrumental in the successful resolution of geotechnical challenges associated with complex transportation and utility projects.

**Danielle Civetta Thompson** is an experienced Corporate Treasurer, responsible for the financial and technology growth at John Civetta and Sons, a company with many past and present Moles members. Danielle, a NY CPA, was previously with Deloitte & Touche. Danielle is a member of the GCA Law and Legislative Committee.

**Patrick H. Trainor**, a Professional Engineer with a BSME from R.P.I., has been involved in furnishing forming, shoring and bridge erection equipment on heavy construction projects throughout the US for many years. As Sales Engineer with Peri USA, Patrick manages projects in the NY Metro Heavy Civil Market.

**Michael J. Tritt**, President of Lane Power and Energy Solutions, has many years of experience in the construction of power generation and energy storage facilities related to the Oil and Gas sector. His association with global hard rock and salt hydrocarbon storage cavern projects has made him a sought-after expert in this critical field.

**Julio A. Velez** is the Operations Manager at Judlau Contracting Inc., overseeing several tunnel contracts addressing flood mitigation and repairing the damage caused by Superstorm Sandy, including the Queens Midtown Tunnel Rehab.

**Massimo "Mass" Viti**, recent Executive Director of Schiavone Construction and now the President of VMR Civil LLC located in Hicksville, New York, has over twenty years' experience with major tunneling projects such as City Water Tunnel #3, the MTACC 7 Line Extension and the DEP Project at Rondout, among other NYC DEP projects.

**William H. Walton** is a Senior V.P. and Director at GEI Consultants Inc. Bill's recent deep foundation/geotech projects include water tunnel design under Lake Erie, design improvements for major TVA dams and a top down secant wall design for 4 level basement beneath the 70-story OCS Tower in Chicago.

**Morris Blitstein**, retired from Slattery Associates in 1991, has been enjoying his home in West Palm Beach Florida. He was a dedicated member of the Slattery Team and lead their estimating group for many years. He was an extremely talented individual and had a real gift to be able to retain pricing and cost data in his head for numerous projects for many years.

**Joseph Diehl** was a long-time manager of construction projects for Spenser White and Prentis, Mergentine Corp. and the Kiewit Construction Group. We trust Joe is enjoying his retirement.

**Neil Friets**, a long-time manager with Peter Kiewit and Sons, is enjoying his retirement years in Keene, NH. He continues to enjoy the great outdoors by hiking in the nearby forests, less aggressive than past hiking trips to the High Artic and Antarctic continents. Stay warm Neil, The Moles wish you continued good health.

**Robert Hill's** 1979 induction into The Moles was well deserved since he had already amassed mega projects such as City Water Tunnel #3, major marine work on the Cross-Bay Bridge and the cargo piers at Port Elizabeth, NJ. Bob spent many years with Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas as their V.P. and was co-founder of PB Construction Services Inc. Later, Bob was managing VP for PB International, where he was involved with Mass Transit Projects in Taipei and Cairo and other projects around the globe.

**Thomas Holmes** was the Chairman and CEO of the Ingersoll Rand Corporation prior to his retirement in 1988. He now lives in New Hope, PA, where he continues to enjoy his retirement years.

**Leslie A. Hynes**. A distinguished graduate of the Fordham School of Law, Les was a talented attorney who specialized in construction and engineering issues. He currently resides in Madison, NJ.

**Daniel P. McGeehan** was a long-time top executive in the cement supply industry at Atlantic Cement. Dan was an avid golfer then, and now in retirement.

**Richard Robbins** is possibly the most recognized name in the modern tunneling industry. Dick guided his family's small tunneling business to become one of the most innovative and successful fabricators of Tunnel Boring Machines. Dick holds 11 US Patents and another 56 foreign patents.

### 50 Years and Counting!

**Frank Robertson's** entire career was devoted to the Morrison-Knudsen Company, mainly on the East Coast. Frank and his team managed the construction of the then largest building in the world located at Cape Canaveral – the NASA Vehicle Assembly Building, which was completed in 1966. The building is still currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> largest building in the world with 129 mil ft<sup>3</sup> of space. His project also included the furnishing of the huge Crawler Transporter Units used to transport the massive Saturn rockets from the building to Launch Pad 39. Frank would later admit that the first day the crawler unit transported a Saturn rocket to the launch pad was by far the longest day in his life. The crawler-transporters themselves were added to the National Register of Historic Places in January of 2000.

After retiring in 1985, Frank and his wife Jeannine spent considerable time in Chile and Argentina fishing the numerous rivers and enjoying the local culture. Currently residing in Boise, Idaho, Frank and his wife continue to enjoy their retirement years. Stay well Frank and try to keep in touch with your many construction industry friends!

**Richard N. Weeks**. The Moles organization, along with its members, want to thank Dick for sharing his valuable time with our members at numerous Moles events that he has attended over the last 50 years. Dick's dedication and involvement in the marine portion of our industry can only be described as monumental! At the May dinner several weeks ago, Dick provided us with a great link to our past, when he discussed several meetings he had with "Mr. Mole" himself – Ralph Atwater who recommended him for Moles membership.



# 2019 Student Spring Site Tours

On April 10th, with encouragement and extraordinary cooperation of many of our Boston-based Moles members, The Moles Education Committee hosted its first ever Boston Students Day tour. The day included the traditional breakfast and opening lecture to familiarize the students with the construction program to extend the Green Line of the MBTA subway (or as locals refer to it, the “T” ) six miles north to the area of Tufts University, a project estimated to be \$4 billion dollars. Students were then transported via buses rented by The Moles to eight individual workstations along the right-of-way. At each station a representative of Green Line Constructors explained to the engineering students from ten Boston-area schools the process and associated challenges of that particular site. The Moles wish to thank Flour, Herzog, Middlesex and Balford Beatty, all companies of the JV known as GLX Constructors, in addition to Mr. John Dalton, Project Director for the MBTA along with his management staff for their critical support and efforts to make the day a success. Christine Keville was instrumental in facilitating both the MBTA to approve the site tour and contacting area schools to garner their interest.

The volunteer efforts of Boston-based Moles members including Ed Bond, Steve Cobb, Robert Fischer, Drew Floyd, Kevin Huie, Kirk Junco, Terese Kwiatkowski, John McNamara, Bob Palermo, Paul Pedini, Mark Pelletier, Robert Pine, Brad Roberts, John Roma and Greg Sanchez was outstanding and allowed the event to run smoothly and efficiently similar to past New York-based Student Days.

Two days later on April 12<sup>th</sup>, The Moles arranged for a group of 15 students, who had specifically expressed interest in tunnel construction, along with their faculty advisors, to tour the operation of the tunnel boring machine currently in use on the Rondout NYC water tunnel by-pass project near Newburgh, NY. The Moles want to thank Ken Ouellette and Vinny Sambrato and the on-site staff of Kiewit and J.F. Shea who extended their time and resources in allowing the group access and hosting the tour. It was a unique opportunity to see the 21.4 ft. diameter TBM Hard Rock Mole in operation along with conventionally excavated shafts and caverns and associated concrete lining.

Thanks also to the many Moles-associated firms who generously donated PPE to both Students Days; outfitting the students with appropriate protective gear is an important part of the day’s success and our committee is grateful to our members who, without hesitation, contributed.



## Joseph F. Malandro and Dr. Moujalli Hourani Honored at the January Awards Dinner

The Moles 2019 Awards Dinner Principal Speaker LtGen Dennis J. Hejlik USMC (ret) receiving his Honorary Moles Membership Certificate from President Kirk Junco. General Hejlik eloquently enlightened the audience of 2000 on the importance of the logistical support engineering groups provide the military in advancing the efforts of any military conflict. He referred to three examples, the construction of the runway on Tinian in the South Pacific in April 1945 to enabling 269 B29 bombers to operate in and out of the airfield and thus expedite the end of WWII in the Pacific. Again, at Khe Sanh Combat Base during the Vietnam War, engineers kept the airfield open despite constant shelling from North Vietnam forces for 77 continuous days. He also related from his own experience how vital the engineers were to the success the successful invasion of the city of Fallujah during the Iraq War.



Milo Rivero, the President of STV Inc. and a Manhattan College grad, did an outstanding job of introducing and briefly explaining to our guests why Dr. Moujalli Hourani was so deserving of this year's Non-Member Award. Dr. Hourani's true passion of providing students guidance both during their academic years and beyond is truly remarkable. As the entire lighting in the Ballroom faded to kelly green in honor of Manhattan College, Dr. Hourani took the podium and gave a very emotional speech concerning how passionate he was that engineers should strive to maintain keen "emotional intelligence" and become the best all-around educated person possible.

Legendary Moles member George Tamaro introduced the 2019 Moles Member Awardee Joseph F. Malandro. With his personal passion for construction, Joe reinforced the need for our generation to train and support current engineering students in order to enable them to continue the work we love so much; as Joe described it, "work that has purpose". Joe reinforced the need to have responsible owners, talented and dedicated design professionals along with honest, hard-working contractors to all work in harmony, in order to better deliver projects economically and on schedule.

