



JUNE, 2022

## Paul C. Schmall Accepts President's Gavel

**D**uring the 1987 winter break at Bucknell University, Paul Schmall, an eager, young, and very broke engineering student, was looking to use his upcoming time off to pick up some cash before the next semester began. He turned to the local newspaper, the internet was not an option back then, and came across an advertisement for a project engineer. Despite not being really qualified, Paul took a shot and applied since he was intrigued by the position. He was pleasantly surprised when he landed what he thought was a short-term job with local contractor, Moretrench. He was hired by Art Corwin, a supervising engineer at the company.

Now the story turns somewhat ironic! Art Corwin at the time was not yet a member of The Moles and would not be inducted until 1990. Paul may have heard of The Moles, but only concerning an upcoming Moles Students Day Tour. Back then Paul and Art had no idea that they would both eventually go on to serve as The Moles' Presidents, their terms separated by 10 years. Now, 35 years later this is what is actually happening! Once Paul started working at Moretrench at that short term job, he respected Art so much, he stayed with Moretrench for the next 32 years.

After graduation in 1988, Paul was assigned the position of Project Engineer for the dewatering efforts on the Oakwood Beach Interceptor Sewer project in Staten Island. The project was a deep, fully dewatered, open face digger shield tunneling project which would involve the most challenging differing site conditions in Moretrench's history. Later acting as a subcontractor for Grow Tunneling on the follow-on tunnel contracts, Paul spent several years battling to dewater the tunnels, someday Paul felt his efforts were dewatering the entire southern end of Staten Island! He spent many a shift climbing up to the heading of the 12-foot diameter machine in response to the Sandhogs crying, "water, water!" He garnered considerable knowledge and skill dealing with dewatering the tunnel drives, knowledge and experience that would serve him well in future years. Art Corwin, Chief Engineer at this point, continued to mentor Paul and eventually Paul himself became Chief Engineer in 1995. The specialty niche he grew into involved dealing with aquifer pumping tests, complex groundwater control work, and fairly regular deep shaft and tunnel blow-ins. The expertise Paul would acquire would take him abroad to the Honolulu Rapid Transit, Tren Urbano, and Valencia Metro projects and eventually back home to the World Trade Center's massive recovery



and rebuilding effort. When water was a problem, the field crews would simply cry, "Moretrench-Moretrench" to draw Paul's immediate attention to the problem!

In response to a major cofferdam blow-in on the I-664 immersed tube tunneling project in Newport News in 1990, Paul, now anointed as the "Moretrench Grouting Guru," was dispatched for the repair and plugging of major leaks of both massive cellular cofferdams, where Paul began to expand Moretrench's grouting techniques and capabilities. With these newly developed techniques over the years, Paul designed and executed very challenging permeation compaction, jet and compensation grouting projects for the next 20 years. Paul has passed the reigns of this facet of the company's expertise over to Lucian Spiteri, also a Mole.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Paul Schmall (con't. from p. 1)

Paul was also indoctrinated into ground freezing in emergency mode when flowing groundwater prevented shafts, which were intended to be frozen, from fully freezing, such complications often result in weeks and months of delays and involved millions of dollars in additional costs. After working on and solving such complications on five separate projects, including the Providence CSO tunnel and the NYCDEP water tunnel shafts, Paul decided to further study the science related to the causes and solutions to this major problem in greater depth. Paul wrote his PhD thesis on such problematic events and published, to share with others, the solutions he had thoughtfully prepared and executed to overcome them.

Paul, a Senior Vice President at Moretrench at the time the company was purchased by Keller in 2018, became, and remains, a Vice President of Keller's Specialty Service business unit, responsible for the tunnel and major dam projects throughout North America.

Paul, a dedicated Moles member since his induction in 2002, has served the organization in numerous capacities, including as a member of the Membership and Program committees. He served as both member and Chair of the Education Committee from 2009 to 2015, during which time he became known as the most aggressive chairman ever. He, along with Steve Price, organized one Moles Students' Day, taking 450 college students into the deep caverns far below Grand Central Station where the East Side Access tunnels were being excavated. It was an amazingly successful effort that was accomplished with no complications or injuries. Later, Paul boarded 450 students on a chartered Circle Line boat that gave students a water-level view of the amazing work effort associated with the construction of the Tappan Zee replacement bridge.

Until recently, Paul served as the first Chairman of the Board of the newly formed Moles Charitable Fund, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to awarding scholarships to defray tuition costs of Engineering Students. The Moles thanks Paul for his unwavering dedication and boundless energy during the past four years.

Paul considers becoming President of The Moles one of the premiere highlights of his career and looks forward to further promoting the organization during his one-year tenure. The Moles would also like to give a big "thank you" to Art Corwin for recognizing that Paul had "the right tunnel stuff" when hiring him back in 1987, and again fifteen years later when he sponsored Paul to become a Mole. Their intertwined career paths continue as Paul accepted the gavel at the June 15, 2022 Members Dinner!



In his first act as Moles President, Paul Schmall (*above, left*) presented Gary Almeraris with a certificate and lapel pin in recognition of Gary's leadership as Moles President for 2021-2022.

## 2022—23 Officers & Trustees

**President:** PAUL SCHMALL

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Please see The Moles' website for a complete list of 2022 Committee Members: [www.themoles.net](http://www.themoles.net)

**MOLES' CALENDAR EVENTS:** Please check The Moles' Website for updated information on upcoming Events including the August 30th Clambake, and November 9th Fall Members Dinner.

*Holing Through* is published by The Moles three times a year. E-mail newsworthy updates to Executive Director and Editor Thomas J. Groark, P.E. [tgroark@themoles.net](mailto:tgroark@themoles.net). Office telephone: (201) 930-1923 Website: [www.themoles.net](http://www.themoles.net)

# 2022 Awards Dinner—The Moles are Back!

Despite several false starts, the 2022 Moles Awards Dinner was held on May 11 at the NY Hilton Midtown and the vibe felt throughout the Grand Ballroom indicated that everyone was thrilled to see our major dinner event back again. This same feeling was shared by the band and the hotel waitstaff. It was a signal to everyone that things were back to “as normal as they ever will be” following the many dark months of Covid.

Approximately 1500 guests attended, which is somewhat less than the 1900 we typically have had. The waitstaff could finally easily navigate their way through the crowd to serve everyone’s meal, rather than in years past where they had to fight their way around, over or under men dressed in tuxedos blocking their path.

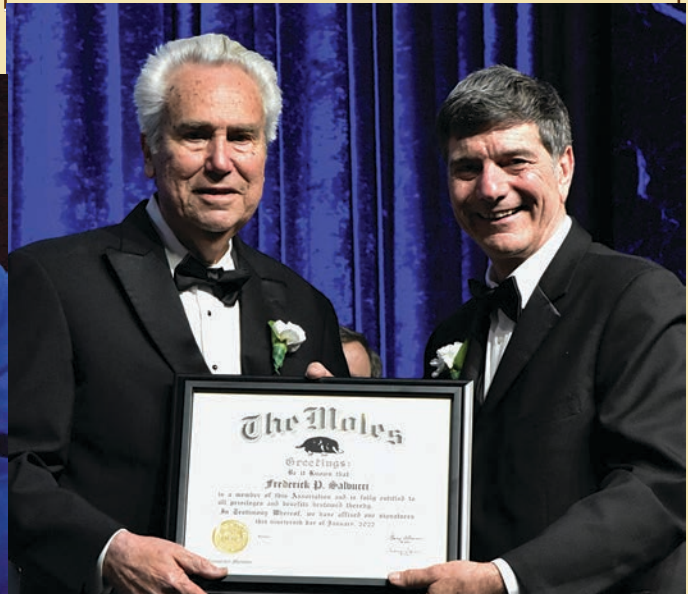
The evening, however, was somewhat outside of the norm since the Governor of New York, scheduled to be our Principal Speaker, tested positive for Covid only 2 days previous and had to cancel. Therefore, we had no keynote address to listen to this year. On the other hand, **Al Daloisio**, our Awardee for the Moles Member Award and **Fred Salvucci**, our Awardee for the Moles Non-Member Award, delivered their gracious acceptance speeches utilizing the extra time “yielded back” by Governor Kathy Hochul.

The dinner concluded with the traditional singing of Auld Lang Syne, whose lyrics were more appropriate this year. The lyrics go:

“... And there’s a hand, my trusty friend!  
 And give me a hand o’ thine!  
 And we’ll take a right good-will draught,  
 For auld Lang Syne (for the sake of old times).”



**Frederick P. Salvucci and Alfonso Daloisio Jr.** (pictured above) were honored for their Outstanding Contributions to the Heavy Construction Industry.



Fred (above left) is pictured accepting his honorary membership from President Gary Almeraris.

The stage lights turned RCC red, as Al (pictured at left, with Presenter Joe Vaccaro) accepted his Award.

# Lest We Forget Their Contributions...



**Johnny Chow** (pictured above with son Michael at the June 2021 Members Dinner) passed on January 20, at the age of 90 after a courageous battle against gastric cancer. He leaves behind his wife of 63 years, eight children, including Michael, also a Mole, and twelve grandchildren. Johnny was born in Shanghai, China in 1931. He escaped the coming communist revolution while still a young teenager and came to the US. Here, he served in the Army, which offered him the ability to earn a BSCE from Indiana Technical College. Johnny was a Moles member for 47 years, during which time he dedicated himself to serving on the Education and Election Committees.

Johnny will be sorely missed, but his family and friends will remember him each time they look at a bouquet of flowers, as one of his favorite things to do was buy his wife flowers simply because the day ended in a “y.”

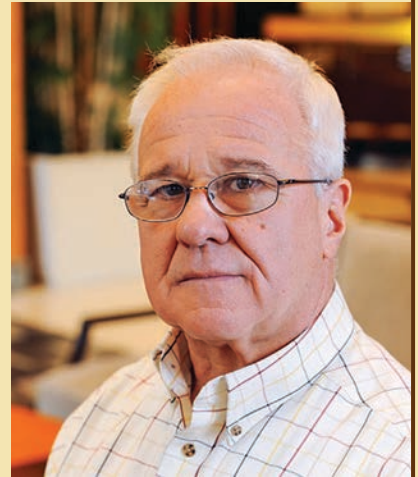
**David H. Griffin** was born in 1925, and passed February 11, at the age of 96. David was awarded a unique 60-Year Mole Member certificate last year.

He served in the United States Navy during WWII, then went on to work for the family business, Griffin Wellpoint Corporation, a construction and dewatering business in the Bronx. David grew the business from a regional status to a national organization. He later became President of Griffin Technics, Inc., a water purification company whose refining practices he developed into becoming the industry standard of today.

David leaves behind his wife, Dolores, of 69 years, three children, eleven grandchildren, two great grandchildren.

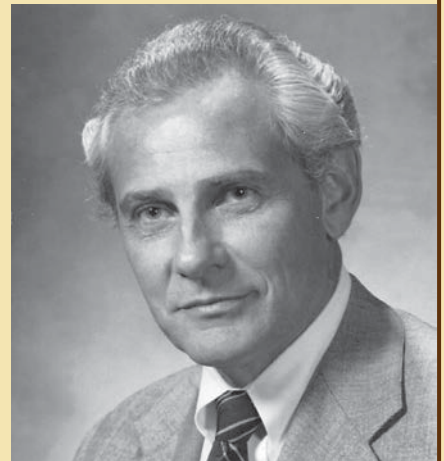


**Raymond W. Henn** passed away unexpectedly at age 73. Both he and Patricia, his wife of 48 years, grew up in New York City. Following service as a Green Beret during the Vietnam War, he earned a degree in construction technology. Ray worked in tunneling for the next 37 years, the first 25 years of which was spent in the field working for both contractors and construction managers. Ray continued his schooling on a part-time basis over the years, and eventually received his Ph.D. in Mining Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 2005. Along the way, Ray earned the affectionate and very unique title of “Doctor Hard Rock”. He was always a great contributor to the industry and he loved teaching as an adjunct professor at the Colorado School of Mines and offering wise career advice to his students. He was past President of the American Underground Construction Association, aka UCA. He was a recipient of the ASCE *Roebing Award in Construction Engineering*, and author of three textbooks. Although Ray



was a very accomplished and credentialed professional, he was best known for his sincere friendships. He connected with a lot of people and did a lot to further the sense of community in our relatively small world of tunneling. Mike Mooney, one of his colleagues at the Colorado School of Mines, described Ray as “Crunchy on the outside, but soft on the inside”. He had a heart of gold and was liked and respected by all.

**Jack Lemley** passed away on November 29, 2021 at age 86. He was named Honorary Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in recognition of his work, specifically in completing the Channel Tunnel. His work would take him all over the world to more than 60 countries over the span of 50 years. His career began when he was 15 and went to work for the



Idaho Transportation Department. Jack earned a degree in Architecture, though he was recorded saying, “all I ever wanted to do from the time I was a small boy was to build things.” Jack would go on to work for Guy F. Atkinson Company before moving over to the Morrison-Knudsen where he served as Executive VP. Jack was a Moles Member for 46 years. He enjoyed his retirement years white-water rafting, skiing, sailing, and biking. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, five children, and four grandchildren.

# We Remember...

**George P. Neumann**, whose father Gerry Sr. was also a long-time Mole as are his brother Gerry Jr. and nephew Matt, was inducted into the Moles in 1986. George passed on May 18 at the age of 77. He is survived by his four children and ten grandchildren. His wife of 52 years, Mary Jane, predeceased him in August of 2021.



George served in the Navy in the Civil Engineering Corps fresh out of college in 1967. He was part of a Seabee Construction Battalion and he acted as their Company Commander. He joined Spearin, Preston & Burrows in 1970, after his discharge where he worked as a heavy marine contractor.

**Edward Plotkin**, a Moles member since 1975, passed away April 21 at the age of 89. He earned his BSCE in 1953 and an MBA in engineering management in 1966. He subsequently went on to hold many titles throughout his career, including consulting engineer, project manager, contractor, and owner. In the 1990s, Ed was the Commissioner of Public Works for Westchester County. In addition to working on many projects in various capacities, such as the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Subway and NYC's Tunnel No. 3, Ed taught courses in physics at Manhattan College and environmental science at Mercy College and even taught college classes at Sing Sing Prison for many years. Because of his long, active, and respected career, Ed was awarded several honors, namely the UCA of SME *Lifetime Achievement Award* in 2010 and an honorary doctorate from his alma mater in 2019 (CCNY). Ed's son, David, followed his career path and also became a Moles member.



Following a battle with cancer, **Eric Seib** (49) of Phillipsburg, a member of The Moles since 2018, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, April 29.

After graduating from Purdue University with a degree in Civil Engineering, Mike Mergentime and Merco hired him, where Eric started a 26-year career in heavy construction including spe-



cialty work in Rock Slope Remediation. Eric was most proud when he was inducted into The Moles, an accomplishment that meant the world to him.

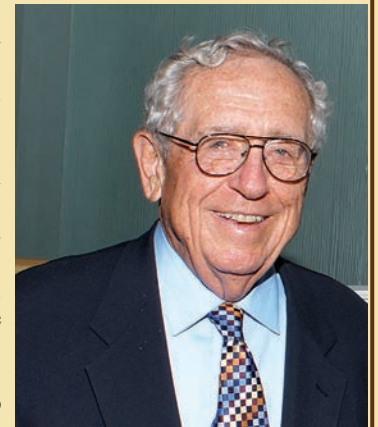
**Edward Schmeltz**, 72, a Mole member since 1995, passed away on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Ed's specialty was as a coastal engineer for over 45 years, throughout six continents. Many of his assignments were in support of US Navy Facilities which included berthing and support facilities for the U.S.S. Iowa in NYC and for the U.S.S. Missouri in Pearl Harbor.



At his work and in his life, Ed was universally regarded as an exceptional engineer and "one of the nicest guys you ever met" He enjoyed helping people, especially supporting young engineers as evidenced through his service on the board of NJIT, which awarded him the *Lifetime Alumni Leadership of the Year Award*.

**Robert Sharkey**, born in August 1927, passed away on June 19, 2022 at age 94 in Tampa, FL. A 50-Year member, Robert attended Cornell University for Civil Engineering and C.W. Post College for Philosophy. He soon took up a position as an Inspector for the firm Andrews & Clarke in the early 1950s; later accepting a position with Horn Construction Company, where he worked up the ladder from General Superintendent to Executive VP. Robert retired at 89, having spent the previous 30 plus years of his career at David Nelson Construction Co.

**Donald Unbekant** passed away on February 3 at age 90. Don graduated from Cornell University (1955) and Columbia University (1957). He began his career with Cayuga Construction Company, working on various projects such as the New York World's Fair, Newark Airport, and many PA and MTA projects. In 1994, he began working for the Perini Construction Corp., where he formed the Perini NY Metro Division. He later became the Executive Vice President of Perini's Civil and Environmental sector, moving to their Framingham headquarters. Donald was proud of his Mole membership of 50 years, having joined in 1971. In retirement, Don enjoyed painting and was a part of his community's harmonic groups. He leaves behind his wife of 66 years, two daughters, and four granddaughters.



# WELCOME CLASS OF 2022!



**Arthur J. Alzamora**, a PE in NY and CT, graduated from Manhattan College and currently serves as the Vice President of Langan Engineering. In 2019, he was awarded the *Kavanagh Service Award* by the ASCE and named one of the *Top 20 Under 40* by ENR NY. Arthur's projects include numerous projects all around NYC including St. Patrick's Cathedral.

**Marc Arnett**, a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson, is Vice President of Scheduling at Yonkers Contracting Company. He has been in the industry for many years working on NYSDOT and Port Authority contracts. He recently completed the final link for Shared Use Path project across the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, a \$120 Million contract.

**Stephen J. Ascoli** worked for more than two decades on site, before moving to the position of Vice President of Operations at Perfetto Contracting Company for the past four years. His experience covers such major projects as the new bridge replacing the Tappan Zee Hudson River (a \$3 billion project) and reconstruction efforts at the WTC Transportation Hub.

**Paul Atkins** is a Tufts University and University of CA Berkeley graduate. Paul is a partner at Halmar International LLC,

which he and Chris Larsen established in 2005. Paul managed the \$400 million rehabilitation of the Alexander Hamilton Bridge, the largest project in NYSDOT history up to that point. At present he is overseeing Halmar projects in the Tri-State Area.

**Andrew Brengola** is the New England Area Manager and Project Executive for Underpinning & Foundation Skanska, a company he has been with eight years. He graduated from Syracuse University and Tufts University. His projects have spanned several states including MA, CT, and RI.

**Derek Brennan** holds a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Maryland and a BS in Optical Engineering from the University of Rochester. He has put his education to use throughout the US, as well as in Canada. Derek is a Project Manager at Kiewit Infrastructure, where he has spent the past 28 years primarily working on TBM projects in Canada and New York, including the \$700 million tunnel project for the NY DEP.

**Rebecca Clark** currently is a Vice President of Operations for Skanska-Koch, where she has spent 20 years in the construction industry. She holds degrees

from Fairfield University, Columbia University, and Fordham University. Rebecca has worked on numerous bridge reconstruction projects in the Northeast and recently was the Project Executive for the \$4 billion LaGuardia Terminal B Redevelopment.

**Alex Concannon** is the owner and president of Gateway Demo/Civil Corporation, which specializes in demolition and heavy civil work predominantly throughout NYC. He also serves as the President and owner of ICI Industries Incorporated.

**Sergio Couto**, a PE in NJ and graduate of NJIT, is the Vice President of Operations for D'Annunzio & Sons, bringing his 24+ years of gained experience to the company. He has been responsible for the supervision of countless contracts for Con Ed, the National Grid, Empire Cable, and NYCDEP.

**Willie Cruz**, a Project Executive for Skanska USA Civil, has been with the company for nearly 25 years. Willie has worked on major redevelopment efforts throughout NYC, such as the \$4 billion redevelopment of Terminal B at LaGuardia Airport and major MTA projects. He is currently serving as construction manager for the Portal North Bridge in NJ.

## The Class of 2022 (continued)



**Stephen DelGrosso**, a Project Executive for Skanska USA Civil Northeast, has nearly 40 years of experience on high profile projects in the New England area. His current project, for the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, a \$212 million enterprise, was visited by engineering students during the most recent Moles Student Day Tour in April.

**John DiBiasi** graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and later the Widener University School of Law. He has 20 years of construction legal experience and is actively engaged in associations such as the ASCE, the AGCE, the GCA of Newark, and the American Society of Military Engineers.

**Uday Durg** is the Executive VP of OHLA USA since 2016, with over 30 years of experience from his previous executive position at the MTA. He graduated from the University of Mysore, India and later earned a MS in Transportation Planning and Engineering from the Polytechnic of Brooklyn. During his many years with the MTA, Uday managed the South Ferry Terminal and Fulton Subway Center projects.

**Louis Fritz** graduated from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. He is now the Sales Manager for Birmingham Foundation Equipment Co., that provides custom solutions for

particularly unique and difficult foundation projects. He aided in the driving of a 600ft conductor pile on the ocean floor at extremely low temperatures.

**Mark Gentile** attended Bucknell (BSCE) and the University of Pittsburg (MBA). He joined Trumbull Corporation in 1995, working his way from estimator to now the President of the company. He has been associated with projects such as the \$116 million Southern Beltway and the \$208 million Replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge between VA and MD.

**Ray Hashimee** is the principal and regional manager for EPC Consultants, Inc., where he focuses on mining and tunneling methodologies implementation. He served as CM for the \$580 million DC Water Clean Rivers Project and currently is working on the \$450 million River Renew Tunnel System Project.

**Daniel Healey**, now the Chief Engineer/Vice President of George Harms Construction, has spent over 25 years of experience in heavy construction field. His current focus is on bid preparation for their major projects, such as the NJ Transit Raritan River and NJDOT Route 7 Hackensack River Wittpenn Bridge.

**Timothy Kearney** has nearly 20 years' experience on the underground projects. Currently as a Vice President of Renesco Inc., Tim specializes in tunnel

innovative waterproofing which he has developed along with specialty grouting processes.

**Matt Keefe** is a US Naval Academy graduate with a BS in Ocean Engineering and served as a Naval Aviator. Matt is now an Area Project Manager for Halmar International LLC and has managed projects recently for both the MTA and the PANYNJ.

**Matt Kilduff**, the President and founder of Kilduff Underground Enterprises, specializes in innovative excavation support systems. He is a PE in numerous states and is active in organizations such as ASCE, SME-UCA, NUCA, and more.

**Jonathan Klug** is the VP and part owner of both Klug Construction Systems, LLC and David R. Klug & Associates, Inc. He has been a very active member of the SME UCA over the years and contributed to the book, *The History of Tunneling in the United States* (2017). His project involvement spans numerous states as well as Canada.

**Peter Lauro Jr.** became President at JR Cruz in 2016. As a result of his strategic efforts, the company has grown exponentially from their initial workforce of 50 to currently over 300 employees. His projects are predominantly based in NYC, working with agencies such as NYCDEP, USACE and PANYNJ.

## The Class of 2022 (continued)

**Aaron Lewis**, a graduate of Northeastern University (BSCE) and University of Michigan (MSCE), is a Senior Principal of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, where he has spent almost 20 years. In 2019, Aaron received both ACEC Awards for *Engineering Excellence* in recognition of the Belmont Light Transmission Line.

**Christopher McGrath** has 30 years of heavy construction experience and has worked on various high dollar projects such as the \$750 million CBBT Parallel Thimble Shoal Tunnel Design/Build and the \$380 million reconstruction of 207<sup>th</sup> St Train Yard for the MTA. He is the chief estimator at Walsh Construction Company.

**Timothy McLaughlin**, a graduate of Merrimack College and Northeastern University, currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Business Development of SPS New England. He has nearly 40 years of experience in our industry and is an active member of professional organizations such as CIM where he is on the Board of Directors, DBIA, ACEC, and others.

**Erika Moonin** is the founder and President of Moonin Associates, PLLC, which she established in 2018. She has over 25 years experience in the heavy civil and underground industry focusing mainly on marine projects. Erika has worked on major projects such as the MWRA Tunnel Redundancy Program and led the team for the \$1.8 billion Lake Mead Intake No. 3 from start to completion.

**Daniele Nebbia** is a PE with over 20 years spent in tunneling and heavy construction projects worldwide. A graduate of the Polytechnic University of Turin in Italy, he is now VP of The Lane Construction Corporation. His projects include the \$580 million design and build for the Northeast Boundary Tunnel for D.C. Water, the details of which he shared with us at the November 2021 Moles Member meeting.

**Glenn Olechnowich**, a Project Executive at Yonkers Contracting Company, has 25 years of experience dealing with complex design-build ventures for the MTA and the PA. Recent projects include the \$890 million PA Rapid Bridge Replacement and the JFK Runway 13L & 13R Reconstruction.

**Tasos Papathanasiou** holds a BSCE from the National Technical University of Athens in Greece and two Masters degrees: Civil Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology and Geotechnical Engineering from the University of Maryland. A PE with more than 20 years in the engineering world, Tasos is currently a Senior Associate/VP for Langan Engineering.

**Daniel Peterson**, the Chief Operating Officer at Schiavone Construction Company, has more than 30 years of experience in the heavy construction field. He has worked with the NYCDEP and the NYCT on projects ranging from dehumidification and water elimination to rehabilitation and reconstruction of bridge crossings.

**Jim Whitmer** is currently the Executive Director for Preconstruction Services of Fluor Enterprises, where he has worked for 10 years. His work has taken him to numerous major project locations throughout the US during his almost 25 years in the industry.

**Sarah Holtz Wilson**, a PE, is a graduate of Drexel University and the University of CA-Berkeley. Sarah has over 20 years of experience in geotechnical and is as a Principal and VP of McMillen Jacobs Associates. Sarah has managed mega-sized projects, such as the Purple Line Extension for the LA Metro (\$1.4 Billion) and the Central Subway Project for the SFMTA, (\$1.6 Billion project.)

## Gerry Brady Recognized, Receives 2022 Ralph Atwater Service Award

The Moles is pleased to announce that this year's *Ralph Atwater Moles Service Award* was presented to Gerry Brady at the Members Dinner on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Gerry's dedication to the Moles organization spans nearly two decades, serving not only as The Moles' General Counsel, but several terms as member and Chair of numerous Moles standing committees. Gerry rarely misses a Moles event and can be found guiding a group at Moles Students Days. Gerry is always available to offer his advice and counsel on the numerous business issues associated with the commercial side of The Moles.

We are happy to award this prestigious award to Gerry as a sign of The Moles' gratitude for his service. Thank you, Gerry, a partner at Welby, Brady and Greenblatt LLC, our 2022 *Ralph Atwater Moles Service Awardee*!

*Pictured at Right:* Gary Almeraris presented Gerry with his certificate, as one of his final responsibilities as Moles President, before handing the gavel to Paul Schmall at the June 15th Members Dinner.





# Members Celebrating 40 Year Milestone!

**Claes Bjork** earned his MSCE from Trollhättan in 1967. Shortly thereafter he began working for Skanska as a surveyor and at the age of 27, he was sent to the US to work with MacLean Grove, a leading tunnel contractor at that time. His first venture here was as the tunnel superintendent, alongside Gary Almeraris, in a joint effort between Skanska and MacLean on the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Subway Tunnel.

By 1984, on Skanska's behalf, he began the acquisition of Karl Koch Erecting Company, and by 1990 he had arranged that Slattery Associates, Sordoni Construction, Beers Construction, and Tidewater Construction to join Skanska's ranks.

In 1997, he moved back to Sweden and was promoted to President and CEO of Skanska AB, the parent company of all Skanska's business and subsidiaries worldwide. He has since returned to the US, where he is now enjoying his retirement as a resident of West Palm Beach, Florida.

**Warren Bullock**, a New Zealand native born in 1931, graduated with a BSCE from the University of Canterbury in 1954. Over the next several years he would hold various engineering and construction positions around the world, including in his home country, Canada, Australia, and the US. He joined Guy F. Atkinson Company as a Project Manager for the Botany Bay Project in Australia, and upon its completion, Warren was transferred to the Walsh Division of Atkinson. There, he served as the Project Manager for the Nine

Mile II Nuclear Power Plant construction in New York. Soon after he earned the position of Heavy Construction Group Manager before taking on the role of its Vice President. Warren is now retired in Sonoma County, California.

We are sorry to miss him this year at our annual award dinner, but we hope he is enjoying the California sun and getting out to play lots of golf.

**Victor Scaravilli**, now 93, graduated from the Case Institute of Technology in 1953 and has been a part of the heavy construction industry the entirety of his adult life. This now lends him nearly 70 years of experience!

Victor was the President and CEO of S & M Constructors, Inc., a company based in Ohio. His work primarily dealt with underground structures such as subways, and tunnels for vehicles, utilities and soil stabilization, auger piles, and underwater structural repair through a subsidiary of S & M.

Victor was an active member of the ASCE, Ohio Society of Professional Engineers, the Beavers, the Board of Overseers of Case Western Reserve University, the Board of Directors Atlas Copco/Jarva, He is also a former Vice President of the American Underground Association. His friends and colleagues over the years have defined him as thoughtful, logical, and adept in his application of work, that he is a person of the highest integrity.



The Moles were very fortunate to have **Richard Soppe**, a relatively new Moles member, make a technical presentation to those assembled at the June 15<sup>th</sup> Members Dinner. Rich shared his firsthand experience responding to the 2010 major life and death crisis rescuing 33 miners trapped a half mile below the surface in a Chilean mine. Richard Soppe and other employees of Center Rock headed off to Chile and successfully drilled the ½ mile deep rescue shaft through which all 33 miners – one by one - were hoisted to safety. The Moles wish to thank Rich for sharing the details of this historic and extremely difficult rescue operation; as Rich shared, “this is my personal Superbowl” .

The Moles offer technical lectures for (1) pdh credit at the Spring and Fall Members Dinners. We appreciate members volunteering their time and effort to share their expertise and experiences on major projects with members. If you are interested in doing so in the future, please contact Tom Groark at [tgroark@themoles.net](mailto:tgroark@themoles.net)



Catching up at the June 15th dinner! *Left to right:* John DiBiasi, Todd Kilduff, Mike Viggiano, Jesse Ottesen, Uday Durg and Mike Attardo  
*Photos courtesy of Bob Radske*

# RIDOT's I95 Providence Viaduct Bridge Site of April 6th Students Day

The Education Committee's major responsibility is to host the annual Students Day tour of a major construction site, traditionally in the Tri-State area. With the recent expansion of our Participating Schools into the New England Area, the Committee hosted a second Students' Day this academic year on April 6, touring a Rhode Island Department of Transportation project. The project being constructed by Skanska/Manafort Brothers JV replaces an elevated section of northbound Interstate 95 through downtown Providence. The total design/build contract amount was over \$200 million so there were adequate and varied ongoing construction operations for the engineering students to witness.

The design-build project when completed in 2024 will optimize traffic operations by replacing the viaduct along with the associated ramp and overpass structures. The contract includes staged bridge demolition and new construction, bridge rehabilitation, roadway reconstruction. The Providence Viaduct spans the Woonasquatucket River, Amtrak Northeast Corridor tracks, city roads, and includes numerous interchange ramps.

Despite the rainy weather, students came from both our traditional participating schools; US Coast Guard, UConn, SUNY Delhi, RPI and also our newer schools, Northeastern and Wentworth, as well Clarkson, Merrimack, URI, and Roger Williams. The students truly appreciated having the opportunity of seeing several heavy construction operations first-hand in full operation. Over twenty Moles and additional volunteers guided students and faculty safely around the busy site.

As previously highlighted in the *November Holing Through*, earlier this academic year, on October 15<sup>th</sup>, The Moles Student Day event was held at a NYSDOT project being constructed by El Sol, DeFoe, Ecco III and Skanska Civil companies in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx.

The Moles thank all those who donated their time, effort and PPE to ensure another successful tour! A special thank you to outgoing Education Chair, John O'Keefe, who has done a stellar job these past four years!

