



MAY, 2021

Gary Almeraris 2020-21 Moles President

Following a delay of over a year due to the suspension of the traditional Moles meetings, The Moles graciously welcomes Gary Almeraris, our current First Vice President to assume the position of The Moles President for the upcoming year 2021-2022. He will be presented with the “Moles Gavel”, the traditional symbol of assuming the presidency, from outgoing President Christine Keville at the June 23rd Members Dinner.

Gary originally became a Mole Member in 1989, along with fellow new members Al Brand and Ray Oneiglia. He now joins them again in the elite group of members who have served as President of The Moles.

Gary got his start in tunneling when he was a summer intern working on the 63rd street tunnel project under the East River in NYC and he never looked back! After graduation in 1974 from CCNY, Gary joined MacLean Grove and managed a series of tunnel excavation projects in NYC, Washington DC and Boston until the firm decided to cease their tunneling operation business in 1987. Gary immediately joined Skanska/Slattery and to no one’s surprise immediately became involved with tunnel projects in NYC, Boston and DC once again. He is one of relatively few engineers who has dedicated their entire career to strictly the tunneling aspect of the Heavy Construction Industry.

Currently Gary is Senior Vice President of Operations for Skanska USA Civil Northeast and is recognized as a leading underground expert worldwide. He has managed the construction of several SEM caverns, utility-infested cut and covers, tunnels in rock, soil and mixed-face driven by conventional or TBM. He has managed many varied SOEs including several frozen ground solidifications. Some of his more challenging projects included the BIG DIG, Second Ave Subway, DC Water’s CSO program and the Fulton St/WTC transit hubs.

Gary believes that his most significant accomplishment has been his mentoring of young men and women engineers entering the tunneling industry. He is quoted as saying “I am constantly impressed by the talent and drive that these young professionals bring to our industry. Now is the time for me to give even more back to help develop these leaders of tomorrow’s underground projects.” It is no surprise to the Education Committee members that every year Gary finds time to dedicate his entire day to assist at The Moles Student Day event, leading a group of students on a tour of a major construction site. Gary serves as The Moles liaison to his Alma Mater, CCNY.

If there ever is a real-life version of the game “Whack a Mole”, Gary would win every the time! He can be seen coming out of one tunnel project only to ever so quickly disappear into yet another. The Moles look forward to your leadership!

At Right, in a photo dated May 14, 1991, Gary Almeraris and Tom Peyton pose on the job site at the Wellesly Ext. Sewer Replacement project in Dedham, MA.



Gary Almeraris



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jordan K. Adams is VP and General Manager of S. J. Hamill Construction Co., operating out of Charleston, SC. A 2007 graduate of UNC, Jordan has quickly established himself as a truly dedicated and honest construction professional in the Southeast Heavy Construction marketplace. He has led the company's expansion into the marine facility construction market. Jordan is a registered PE in three states and contractor license qualifier in NC, SC, GA and VA.



W. James (Jay) Bayersdorfer brings over 38 years of experience to his current position as Chief Estimator and AVP - Capital Cost Group at AECOM. At AECOM, Jay has been instrumental in providing realistic A/E construction cost estimates for the various design departments within the firm, as well as for use in negotiating fair and reasonable settlements for contractors' claims.



Gillian Blake is a principal with ARUP Infrastructure in NYC. She has 30 years of experience working on a wide range of heavy civil infrastructure projects in various transport, railway and mass transit projects throughout the world, including the design of the new High Speed rail station at Euston, London, UK and overseeing the design of the Hong Kong Station.



David G. Brummel, the General Manager of NE Operations at Michels Corporation has been very influential in fostering the growth of the firm's infrastructure work nationwide. Previously with Lane Construction and Ames Construction, Dave managed several highway and earth moving projects throughout the West and Midwest over the past quarter century.



Sean Burke, a 1990 Villanova grad, has worked most of his 30 year career with Halmar International. As Executive Vice President of Operations, Sean manages field operations for Halmar International, currently overseeing contracts worth over \$500M in the NY Tri-State area, including the Kew Gardens Interchange.



Carson T. Carney is both VP of Major Pursuits and Technology Advancement at Brayman Construction Corp., and VP at Advanced Construction Robotics, which is at the forefront of using artificial intelligence in advanced construction equipment. A 1995 graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Carson previously worked on major bridge projects for American Bridge Company. Carson holds patents for cable-stay bridge decking systems as well.



Joseph G. Castaldo, currently oversees all the heavy civil and demolitions contracts for the Gramercy Group as their VP of Operations. Prior to joining Gramercy, Joe was a long-time employee with the John P. Picone Company where he immediately started after graduating from Polytechnic University and worked his way up to Executive Project Manager overseeing a series of NYCDEP and NYC Transit projects.



Robert D. Coutts, a Project Executive at Skanska USA Civil Northeast, currently manages a series of large contracts for the MBTA and the Massachusetts Port Authority. Previously at SPS New England and Modern Continental Construction, Bob managed large Design-Build projects for the Massachusetts DOT including many of their "Big Dig" projects.



John Dalton currently oversees the MBTA's \$2.3 Bil Green Line Extension Program in Boston. Previously, John managed major transit projects in Dubai and Chicago after he separated from active service, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Commander with the US Navy while serving in Afghanistan. With John's support, The Moles were permitted to host the first Boston-Area Student Day Tour in the Spring of 2019. With covid forcing the cancellation of the 2020 student site tour, John narrated a virtual walk-through of the project which was recorded and distributed to numerous colleges/universities to fill in the site tour gap created by the pandemic.



VP of Operations with Skanska USA Civil, **Vincent Evola** manages several major highway reconstruction and mass transit projects in the NY-NJ area, including the current \$414M Hunts Point Interstate Access Improvement Project. A 1994 graduate of Villanova, he excelled at J. D. Posillico, where he rose through ranks to Project Manager, prior to moving to Skanska in 2001.



Lizan Gilbert is currently a Preconstruction Executive at Guy F. Atkinson Construction and has worked in the Construction Industry for over 20 years, leading the design and construction of heavy civil and tunnel projects throughout the country. She has managed civil underground projects including TBM and hand mining with technical support to SEM projects with a focus on the geotechnical aspects and implementing practical construction solutions. Lizan received her BSCE, MSCE and Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin.



Scott D. Harrigan, President of The Fort Miller Co., Inc., has spent his entire 30-year career with the specialty precast concrete



The Class of 2021 (continued)

manufacturer and supplier located in upstate New York. A graduate of Clarkson University, Scott has helped Fort Miller become known as one of the leaders of innovation in the precast concrete industry while at the same time maintaining the strictest of quality control standards of their concrete products. Signature projects include the Major Deegan Expressway, MTA Third Track, Little Island at Pier 55 and the Chelsea Viaduct in Massachusetts.

The Moles welcomes **Robert Hudson** into our organization although many of us have known him already, considering he has attended both The Awards Dinner and our Clambake events over the last 25 years! As President of S.T. Hudson Engineers Inc., operating out of Cherry Hill, NJ, Bob has been involved as both an Engineer and a Contractor in heavy construction for over 40 years. He presently leads his firm that is engaged in design and construction of major marine facilities.



Chris Johnson, an NJIT grad, has 40 years' experience in the heavy construction industry. Chris is V.P. of Operations for Tutor Perini Corp., where he oversees a series of East Side Access contracts including Harold Structures I, II A and Part 3, the Queens Plaza Substation and Structures, the Mid-Day Storage Yard, the Systems Facility Package and also the Grand Central Station Contract.



Philip Kassouf is a third-generation tunnel contractor and the owner/VP of Triad Engineering and Contracting Co., with 100 years of family heritage operating in the Northeast Ohio heavy construction/tunnel market. Philip has developed unique vertical boring machines and processes and also custom shotcrete delivery equipment for shaft linings. Phil is actively involved with his alma



mater, Purdue University (BSCE '86; MSCE '88), setting up its Student Chapter of UCA, only the third such Chapter in the country.

Jerome J. "Jerry" Killian, currently SVP and CFO at Ferreira Construction Co., has 35 years of public accounting experience as a CPA and was previously a Partner-in-Charge of Construction Services at Wiss & Co., a well-recognized national accounting firm. He is a 25-year member of the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) including Board Member and a Board Member of the Construction Industry Round Table of NJ.



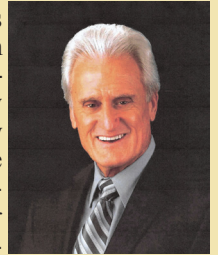
Jack Kocsis Jr. is Chief Executive Officer of the Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey (ACCNJ), the state chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America headquartered in Arlington, VA. For over 30 years, Jack has led the ACCNJ and has been directly involved with labor negotiations and jurisdictional settlement proceedings statewide with the general construction trades. Jack is a recognized leader on issues affecting construction, public policy initiatives and governmental affairs.



Patricia A. Leavenworth is the Deputy Administrator and Chief Engineer of the MassDOT, a position she has held since 2013. Since her graduation from Norwich University with a degree in Civil Engineering, Patty has worked at numerous positions within the Mass DOT. She has developed and improved many of the agencies' processes by integrating electronic control of their assets, electronic contractor permit management, electronic bid advertisement processes and also improving construction progress tracking and reporting procedures.



Mitchell Levine has been a well-known construction professional in the New York area for many years. Mitch is the Chief Business Development Officer and Corporate Liaison at Iovino Enterprises., where he is responsible for building relationships with government agencies, Design/Build teams, reviews bids and assists the presidents of the four Iovino companies.



Paul J. Martino is President of Commerce Construction Corp. operating out of Bridgeport NJ, where he oversees the specialty construction company's demanding marine infrastructure, deep foundation and construction dive projects and overall operation. Since graduating Villanova in 1990, Paul has worked on projects including the Port of Paulsboro Phase II, the Energy Transfer Dock at Fort Mifflin and the Fish Passage Norristown Dam.



Alissa Maxwell Weiss is the President and co-owner of the Hub Foundation Co., Inc., of Chelmsford, MA, a foundation company started by her grandfather. Alissa began at Hub while still attending Hamilton College (BA Geology '99), where she began as a laborer and pile driver changing drill rig's teeth. Alissa continues to oversee the company's projects that include SOE, drilled shafts, drilled mini piles, slurry walls and other drilled foundation elements throughout the northeast. Previously, Alissa worked with scientists in Antarctica with the Antarctic Pack Ice Seal Project.



Richard A. "Dick" McLane is Chief Mechanical Engineer and Project Manager at Traylor Bros., Inc., where he is responsible for the execution



The Class of 2021 (continued)

of all underground works. Dick is currently the Construction Manager for the LA County MTA Purple Line Extension Section #1 project for the Skanska-Traylor-Shea JV team. A 2005 graduate of California Polytechnic State University, Rich has over 16 years' experience on major West Coast based underground projects and is active in SME and DFI.

Michael F. Roach

has over 40 years' experience, the last thirty-four with Traylor Bros., Inc, beginning as a Field Engineer and now as Chief Engineer/Estimator for the Underground Division, working on numerous tunnel and transit large projects throughout the US. Michael has also authored several publications to benefit the underground construction industry, including co-authoring the *History of Tunneling in the United States*. He has also served in executive positions for the Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference as well as serving on the Executive Committee of the UCA.



Patrick M. Roach, a

Construction Manager at CCA/Civil currently assigned to the \$1.8 Billion Long Island Railroad Third Track Construction contract from Floral Park to Hicksville. Pat has the uncanny sense of always being where the work is on major construction sites. For more than 25 years now, no matter what construction site I would work on or visit, including Moles Students Day tours, Pat always seemed to be one of the first site supervisors to greet me as I entered the gate. Welcome to The Moles, Pat – you have earned your place in the organization!



Robert Ross is the SVP and General Manager of Northeast Remsco Construction Inc. based in NJ, where he oversees approximately \$120 Million of W.I.P. annually. Rob has been instrumental in growing NRC's geo-



graphic reach to Baltimore and Washington, DC, while managing the day-to-day operation of the microtunneling, and other trenchless technologies, firm. Rob has over 30 years' of experience in the NY area, associated with wastewater projects, the Manhattan and Williamsburg Bridge reconstruction work and other major NYCDDC and EDC projects.

Edward R. Schluter IV

is a General Superintendent at El Sol Contracting and is currently Project Superintendent for the design-build services for the Van Wyck Expressway Capacity and Access Improvements to JFK Airport, a \$343M NYSDOT project. Ed has also worked on numerous major highway reconstruction projects for the PANYNJ, TBTA and the NYCDOT since graduating with a BSCE from the University of Delaware in 1996, where he also received his Masters in Structural Engineering.



Victoria F. Sheehan

is the Commissioner of the New Hampshire DOT since 2015, overseeing the planning, development and maintenance of the state's transportation network, its 1,650 employees and its annual operating budget of over \$670M. Currently, Victoria serves as President of AASHTO and is past President of NASTO. Victoria earned her Masters of Structural Engineering with Architecture from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 2003.



Jorge P. Silva is VP at MLJ Contracting Corp., a subsidiary of Iovino Enterprises, where he leads the estimating team and manages a portfolio of projects. Jorge has over 25 years' experience successfully managing a diverse range of road, bridge, mass transit, tunnel and power plant projects. Jorge received his BSCE from SUNY Farmingdale in 1999.



David Socci has been with The Middlesex Corporation, which operates out of Littleton, MA, for over 30 years and is a Senior VP – Preconstruction. In addition to representing Middlesex on the \$1 Billion Greenline Extension, he oversees the company's business development, estimating and alternative delivery pursuits which has been instrumental in Middlesex's rapid growth over the decade.



Richard A. Soppe was called in for a

rescue operation, along with his team from Center Rock Inc., to address a mining disaster in Chile. Ten years has passed since the world was captivated by the plight of 33 miners trapped over 2000 feet below ground for sixty-nine days. Richard and his team successfully drilled the large diameter (28") rescue shaft, facilitating the miners' escape. Richard's current resume humbly describes him as an "expert drilling engineer and critical problem solver". Our membership is honored to include you!



Frank J. Spinozza III holds a BSCE

and an MSCE from Manhattan College and was a Moles Scholarship recipient. Frank is a Project Manager at Railroad Construction Company and worked previously at EE Cruz. Frank has quickly worked his way from a Project Engineer position at his early work assignments at the WTC, Columbia University - Manhattanville Development and the Crane Road Bridge replacement for the Westchester DEP to currently being the Project Manager on a \$100 million Design Build project for the LIRR Mid-Suffolk Electric yard. Frank has already volunteered for many times at our annual Moles Student Days.



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2021—22 Officers & Trustees

Thomas J. Trochalides Jr. is the Area Manager for Underpinning and Foundation/Skanska, managing its deep foundation specialty installations from Connecticut to Washington DC. Tom has been involved in numerous contracts at Newtown Creek, 2nd Ave Subway and the 7 Line Extension. He has co-authored a series of case histories studying Tapered-Pile Usage. Tom is a Manhattan College graduate, receiving his BSCE in 2003.



Volkan M. Yargici is a Sr. Project Manager for E.E. Cruz & Company, Inc., managing multiple large construction projects for both public and private entities, including the new Emergency Vent Plant for the NYCTA. Volkan recently completed the largest single non-JV contract in the firm's history, the foundation excavation work for the expansion of the Jacob Javits Center. Volkan has a JD from Rutgers University in addition to his engineering degrees.



First Vice President: PAUL C. SCHMALL
Second Vice President: AL DALOISIO JR.
Treasurer: CHARLES J. MONTALBANO
Secretary: PATRICIA DARNELL
Sergeant-At-Arms: JOHN ECKART

Trustees for 2021-22 are: Gaby Antoun; Jack Callahan; Connie Crawford; Kirk D. Junco (Past President); Christine Keville (Past President); Michael F. McKenna; Malcolm McLaren; John H. O'Keefe; Jesse Ottesen; David E. Puza; Brian J. Reilly; Milo E. Rivero; Michael Ryan; Joseph A. Sopko, and Christopher S. Traylor (Past President).

MOLES' CALENDAR EVENTS: Please check The Moles' Website for updated information on upcoming Events including the June 23rd Annual Member Dinner and Meeting, Clambake, Fall Members' Dinner and Annual Awards Dinner.

May They Rest in Peace

Stephen D. Bechtel Jr. passed away at the age of 95 on March 15, 2021. He was a Moles Honorary Member since 1977, upon receiving the Moles Non-Member Award that year. Stephen led the Bechtel Corporation through their massive expansion from the early 1960's to 1990. The company during that time was involved with numerous mass transit projects in the U. S. and Canada, such as the Bay Area Rapid Transit system in San Francisco in the late 60's to the JFK's Light Rail and Path-to-WTC restoration project following the collapse of the WTC in 2001.

Edward B. Fitzpatrick Jr. passed on Feb. 21, 2021, at the age 88. A Mole member since 1968, Ed was recognized early as a true construction professional, being inducted at the relatively early age of 35. Ed worked with Spearin, Preston & Burrows; Morrison Knudsen; Merritt Chapman & Scott and the Tartarus Construction Corp. He later founded the Edward B. Fitzpatrick Construction Corp., which became a subsidiary of The Clark Group. As alumnus of Notre Dame, Ed served on its Engineering Advisory Council for almost 50 years.

Delon Hampton passed away on January 14, 2021 from Alzheimer's disease. A Mole since 1980, Delon was a pioneering engineer, esteemed academic, founder of a firm bearing his name and the ASCE's President in 2000, when he established its OPAL Award. His firm won design contracts for such high profile projects as the U.S. Capital Visitor Center, airport reconstructions projects in Atlanta and Washington D.C. and major mass transit projects in L.A. and Atlanta.

Robert S. O'Neil, 85, a Mole since 1976, passed away on February 3, 2021, following a brief illness. After service in the Air Force, Bob spent his entire career working at De Leuw, Cather & Company/Parsons Corporation. Bob served as President of The Parsons Transportation Group and Division President for ten years prior to his retirement. He was especially involved with the Washington, D.C. Metrorail System, where he served for many years as Chief Engineer during the initial major construction phase. He was Officer-in-Charge of the historic \$16 billion English Channel Tunnel project on which Parsons served as Engineering Advisor.

Stephen Pirigy passed away on February 26, 2021. A member since 1986, Stephen worked at Manitowoc Company for 38 years before retiring ever so briefly and subsequently utilized his knowledge and skills with other enterprises advising them on their crane need challenges. In the complex specialty world of large crane purchasing and maintenance, Stephen was affectionately referred to as the "God Father", not for being tough, but due to his recognized highest level of integrity, knowledge and honesty he displayed to all.

William Kruse passed away peacefully at his home in Plainfield, NJ on April 30th, at the age of 89. Bill, a Mole member since 1975, was a recognized expert in the geotechnical pile foundation industry and worked for many years with Raymond International as well as Pile Foundation Inc. He was a founding member of the Deep Foundations Institute. In his retirement years, Bill loved visiting Ireland with his wife of 67 years, Doreen, and spending time with his 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

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. Office telephone: (201) 930-1923 Website: www.themoles.net

Classes from 1961, 1970, 1971, 1980 and 1981

Celebrate Milestone Membership Years!

Amazingly 60 Years!

The Moles are honored to present a **60-Year** Moles Member certificate to **David H. Griffin**, who was approved for Moles membership in 1961. At the time of his induction, he was the President of Griffin Wellpoint Corp., a well-known drilling and ground water control contractor operating in the NY metropolitan area. Previously the company was led by his father, Timothy G. Griffin. His father was among The Moles' earliest members when inducted in 1941; at the time, The Moles was only four years young!

In 1982, David became President of Griffin Technics, an ozone equipment manufacturer engaged in municipal water purification processes. Ozone purification, until recently, was the primary purification method utilized by the NYC Water System, and numerous other municipalities, to maintain their drinking water quality. David, now 95, lives with his wife Delores in Bronxville, NY, and can often be seen strolling along the pathways adjacent to the Bronx River. Stay Young, David!

50 Years and Counting!

Gerard J. Carty, born in NYC in 1932, graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1953, with degree in Civil Engineering. He initially worked with Johnson, Drake and Piper Inc. before joining the Walsh Construction Company in 1968. Gerry served as Moles President in 1988 and received the Moles Member Award in 1991. Following his retirement from Walsh, Gerry became the Executive Director of The Moles in 1993 and served in that position until 2015, when he became The Moles Executive Director Emeritus. Gerry continues to enjoy his retirement from his home in Hillsdale, NJ.

Donald E. Unbekant initially worked with Cayuga Construction, where he was involved with the foundation construction associated with the preparations for the 1964 World's Fair in NYC. Subsequently he managed many Port Authority, MTA and New Jersey Turnpike contracts for the company. In 1983, Don established the NY Metro office of the Perini Corporation, which he built into a major player in the NY heavy construction market. Ten years later he moved to Framingham MA, to assume the position of Executive Vice President in the Perini corporate headquarters. Don, now a resident of Florida, enjoys spending time with his two daughters and 4 granddaughters.

Nicholas J. DiMenna was an integral part of Nicholas DiMenna and Sons Inc., a well-known construction company associated with major infrastructure projects, founded in 1936 by his grandfather Nicholas, his father (John) and his uncle (Frank). It is of note that both his father and uncle became Mole members on the same day in 1943. Nick, who was inducted in 1970, is the cousin of Frank DiMenna (also a Mole Member and former Director of Labor Relations with the GCA of New York). Nick transitioned into the financial field and is currently with Stifel, Nicolaus and Co., a member of SPIC & NYSE, and oversees the Moles' McAlinden Scholarship fund account. The Moles thank Nick for the account's excellent growth this year, allowing us to double the number of scholarships being awarded at the June 23rd Members Dinner to children and grandchildren of Mole members in their junior or senior year in college.

Life Membership

Justin Cardarelli retired from Perini Corporation as their VP of Equipment Fleet Management in 1997 after 48 years of service. In retirement he enjoys spending as much time as possible at his home on Lake Champlain in upstate New York.

John Egan, a 1951 Villanova University CE graduate initially worked for the Orion Contracting Co. before moving to The Conduit and Foundation Co., where he spent most of his career.

Michael Haratunian, was serving as President and COO of Seelye Stevenson Value & Knecht when inducted into The Moles. In 1991, Michael was named the President and CEO STV Group, headquartered at the time in Pottstown, PA. When asked recently, Michael shared, "to me being a member of the Moles means reaching the pinnacle of one's career in the construction industry. It represents being part of a long tradition of building a strong and prosperous nation."

Jerome Hill worked with the S.J. Grove and Sons Company on major projects at Stewart Airport and bridge/highway projects in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York area.

Edward J. McNamara worked with Underpinning and Foundation from 1958 to his retirement in 1998. Having had the opportunity work personally with him in the mid 80's I can say via firsthand knowledge that he was a true gentleman who was as effective sitting at a Board Room meeting as he was on-site directing a construction project. Now retired, Ed loves traveling and spending time at his home on the Jersey Shore.

Kenneth P. Sears retired as a US Navy Rear Admiral following a distinguished career with their Civil Engineer Corps. He served with distinction as Deputy Officer in Charge of Construction in Southeast Asia (Vietnam). He also served in the Philippines, Taiwan, and Australia. After his retirement he joined the Washington office of Frederic R. Harris, one of the five companies that later established AECOM.

James C. "Jim" Codell III who currently lives in Lexington, KY, will be joining us at the upcoming Moles Member Dinner to receive his 40 Year Life Membership Award. Jim was the third-generation leader of the heavy construction Codell Construction Company, which was started by his grandfather with his first contract in 1907. His father, James Jr. was also a Moles member. From 1996-2003, Jim was the Secretary of Transportation in KY and is currently active with the URS/AECOM Group serving as their West Region Transportation Marketing Director.

Karl Fritsch, a 1957 CCNY graduate, started his career with Ingram and Green until he moved over to Spenser, White and Prentis Inc. serving as their Chief Engineer. Karl is the owner of Sheeting Specialties, Inc. and resides in Budd Lake, NJ.

James A. Ross was the President and CEO of one of the largest drilling and grouting firms in the country, Sprague and Henwood, operating out of Scranton, PA. He received his Engineering Degree from Columbia University in 1962.