Richard J. Carroll Memorial Lectureship

The Richard J. Carroll Memorial Lectureship in Civil Engineering was established at Johns Hopkins University to commemorate one of Baltimore’s leading structural engineers. The lectureship has been endowed by the many friends and admirers of Richard Carroll, who died in 1982. That endowment contributes to the ongoing guest seminars in the Department of Civil and Systems Engineering and provides for these special lectures.

Richard J. Carroll received his bachelor of civil engineering degree from Villanova University in 1955. He studied advanced structural design at Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University. He was chief structural engineer for the firms of Knoerle, Bender, Stone, and Associates, and Ewell, Bomhardt and Associates, and chief field engineer for the Portland Cement Association. In 1964, he founded his own firm, Carroll Engineering, Inc., which grew to 26 employees under his leadership. Mr. Carroll published several papers dealing with concrete use and design, with emphasis on post-tensioned and pre-stressed concrete. He also taught courses in ultimate strength design and plastic design in steel. He belonged to numerous professional societies. His untimely death at the age of 49 left a legacy of professionalism, integrity, and vigor.

Donors to the Carroll Memorial Lectureship include:

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Learning from Observation of the Performance of Our Built Environment in the 21st Century
Glenn Bell, Former Senior Principal Simpson Gumpertz & Heger

Wednesday, March 11, 2020
5 p.m.
Lecture:
Mason Hall Auditorium
3101 Wyman Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21218

Reception:*
Mason Hall Colonnade
Co-sponsored by the Maryland Section of ASCE

*Registration for the reception is required on ascemd.org
Prior to the advent of modern structural theory, we built amazing structures—from the Egyptian pyramids to gothic cathedrals—through observation of the performance of our built environment. When performance was good, we were emboldened to build larger and more daring structures. When failure occurred, we adapted and often innovated.

In the past two centuries, our attention to observation of the built environment has, unfortunately, diminished. This is in part due to increasing reliance on mathematical structural theory, but also because today’s legal and cultural environment makes it difficult to share lessons from failures.

Renewed interest and activity promise a renaissance in structural observation that will again allow it to play an impactful role (along with structural analysis and laboratory testing) in advancing the technical and procedural bases for structural engineering. Recent advances include structural health monitoring, performance-based design, and the 2019 launch of Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety in the U.S.

**Glenn Bell**  
Senior Principal (Retired)  
Simpson Gumpertz & Heger

Glenn Bell recently retired from Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (SGH) after 45 years. In his time at SGH, he engaged in design of iconic structures, such as SpaceShip Earth at Walt Disney World Epcot Center and the Bahai Temple of South America outside Santiago, Chile. He also investigated structural distress and failure, including the collapse of the Hyatt Regency walkways in Kansas City, and participated in SGH’s progressive collapse analysis of WTC 1 and 2 during 9/11. He was SGH’s CEO from 1995 through 2016.

Always a student of observation of the performance of our built environment, Glenn helped to co-found the ASCE Technical Council on Forensic Engineering in 1983 (now the ASCE Forensic Engineering Division) and led the startup of Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety in the U.S. in 2019.

Glenn’s post-retirement years are his “give back” to the profession. He is 2020 President of the Structural Engineering Institute, Co-Director of CROSS-US, serves on the board of The Charlies Pankow Foundation, and is Visiting Scholar in the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering at the University of Bath in the UK.

**5 p.m. Lecture**  
**6 p.m. Reception**

*Registration for reception is required on ascemd.org*