

2016 Iron & Steel Preservation Conference & Workshop
Purdue University & Lansing Community College
Brief Biographies of Speakers

Quentin Collette

Dr. Collette graduated from the French-speaking *Free University of Brussels* (Belgium) in 2009 with a master in architectural engineering and in 2011 with a master in business management. Between 2009 and 2014 he was a Ph.D. student and lecturer assistant at the Faculty of Engineering of the Dutch-speaking *Free University of Brussels*. Since 2015 he is a structural engineer at Sparks Engineering in San Antonio, Texas, and a voluntary post-doctoral researcher at the Dutch-speaking *Free University of Brussels*. His research interests focus on historical metal and reinforced concrete structures.

Robert J. Connor

Dr. Connor has nearly twenty-five years of experience in the research and testing of bridges and related structures. He is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Civil Engineering at Purdue University and the Director of the Steel Bridge Research, Inspection, Training, and Engineering (S-BRITE) Center at Purdue University. Over his career, he has conducted field evaluations of bridges throughout the United States and in bridge evaluations internationally. He has researched fabrication flaws, fatigue cracking, and failures and has developed repair strategies for structures for a variety of agencies including state DOT, rapid transit authorities, construction companies, and structural consultants. He has developed and is currently developing fatigue design specifications for highway bridge structures, sign structures, and bridge expansion joints for NCHRP and state agencies. His work on fatigue and Constraint Induced Fracture (CIF) has been incorporated into the fracture provisions of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.

Karl H. Frank

Dr. Frank, Professor Emeritus of the University of Texas at Austin, is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost authorities on the design and behavior of structural steel bridges. Throughout his career as a researcher, Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of Ferguson Structural Engineering Lab at the University of Texas at Austin, he has made extraordinary contributions to improving the understanding of the fatigue and fracture behavior of structural steel as well as towards the design and behavior of bolted and welded connections. While he is widely recognized for his expertise in steel bridge systems, he is also well known for his contributions to the building industry. He currently serves as Chief Engineer for Hirschfeld Industries, one of the leading steel bridge fabricators in the United States. Dr. Frank is also significantly involved with several professional organizations such as the AASHTO, AREMA, RCSC, AISC, AWS, TRB, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. His contributions are well recognized: he has received numerous awards including the Raymond C. Reese Research Prize, the J. James Croes Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC).

2016 Iron & Steel Preservation Conference & Workshop
Purdue University & Lansing Community College
Brief Biographies of Speakers
(continued)

Matthew H. Hebdon

Dr. Hebdon is an assistant professor in the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech. He received his doctorate in Civil Engineering in 2015 from Purdue University. Prior to this, he earned a master's and a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering from Utah State University in 2005. His research experience includes redundant behavior of steel bridges, fatigue and fracture evaluation of steel structures, bridge monitoring and testing, historical fabrication methods and materials, and large scale testing of structures. As a licensed professional engineer he worked as a design engineer at Sargent Engineers, Inc. from 2005 until 2010.

Frederick R. Rutz

Dr. Rutz is licensed as a Professional Engineer in six states and a Structural Engineer in one. He has been a practicing structural engineer for over 40 years. He also serves on the faculty at the University of Colorado, Denver, where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate structural engineering courses. His research interests include historic bridges and historic metals.

Ryan J. Sherman

Ryan Sherman is a PhD Candidate in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering at Purdue University. He obtained his BS from Michigan Technological University in 2007 and his MS from Purdue in 2009. After completing his MS, he worked as a Research Engineer at the Bowen Large Scale Laboratory of Civil Engineering for 2.5 years. During that time he conducted several large-scale field and laboratory testing and instrumentation projects around the United States. He is currently completing his PhD research, which is focused on developing new CVN criteria for steels commonly referred to as the "HPS Grades" in order to fully exploit the superior toughness of these steels. The objective is to reduce the likelihood of brittle fracture to a level such that it is no more likely than any other limit state, thereby eliminating the need to classify a member as a FCM for in-service inspection.