

Fall 2009 Seminar Series

# CHALLENGES AND INNOVATION IN CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



## Structural Design Innovation: Russia Tower and Other Tall Collaborations

**Robert A. Halvorson, SE,  
PE, FASCE, FIStructE**  
*Principal, Halvorson and Partners*

**Wednesday, October 28,  
2009**  
**129 DeBartolo Hall**  
**4:30pm**



A number of tall buildings created through the collaboration of the practices of Lord Foster, Foster and Partners, and the speaker and his firm will be presented. This collaboration has culminated in the design of the Russia Tower, a 118 story tall mixed-use building in Moscow. Before addressing several selected building concepts resulting from this collaboration briefly, and the Russia Tower in more detail, some background on the recent history of tall buildings will allow the building designs to be placed in the context of the broader evolution of efficient tall building systems.



*Robert A. Halvorson, SE, PE, FIStructE leads the structural engineering practice of Halvorson and Partners. Bob, as he is known by most, is an industry leader in tall building design. Over the past thirty years Bob has engineered over forty buildings of forty stories or more including the 118-story Russia Tower, which when completed will be the tallest building in Europe. His interest in building structures began with a summer job as a carpenter's helper and continued through his formal studies at Cornell and Stanford. Bob began his career with Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM), serving in their Chicago, Houston, New York and London offices. In 1983 his demonstrated leadership and creativity earned him the distinction of becoming the firm's youngest partner. Never one to become complacent, Bob left SOM and founded Halvorson and Partners in 1996. Now, just 12 years later the firm has offices and personnel in Chicago, Atlanta and Abu Dhabi with a total staff of 50 professionals. Under Bob's leadership the firm has design projects underway in a number of countries including Spain, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Korea and China. Bob is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and of the Institution of Structural Engineers in the UK. His passion for tall buildings has never subsided. Today, Bob's greatest professional joy is sharing that passion with owners, architects and contractors to develop creative solutions for seemingly impossible structures.*

**A reception and an opportunity to meet the speaker will take place at  
4:00pm before the seminar in 156 Fitzpatrick**