Born and educated in Prague (Ph.D. 1963), Bažant joined Northwestern University in 1969, became Professor in 1973, and served as Director of Center for Geomaterials (1981-87). Since 1990 he has been W.P. Murphy Professor of Civil Eng. and Materials Science and since 2002 simultaneously McCormick Institute Professor. He was inducted to the US National Academy of Sciences, US National Academy of Engrg., Am. Acad. of Arts & Sciences, Royal Society London, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Italian National Academy (dei Lincei), Spanish Royal Acad. of Engrg., Istituto Lombardo (Milan), Acad. of Engrg. of Czech Rep., Academia Europaea (London) and Eur. Acad. of Sci. & Arts; served as Editor of ASCE J. of Engrg. Mechanics, and is Regional Editor of Int. J. of Fracture; was president of Soc. of Engrg. Science, founding president of IA-FRAMCOS and of IA-CONCREEP; Division Director in IA-SMiRT; member of US Nat. Comm. on Theor. & Appl. Mech.; and chaired many committees in ASCE, RILEM, ACI, SES and IA-SMiRT. He is an Illinois Registered Struct. Engineer. Among his honors: 7 honorary doctorates-CTU Prague, UC Boulder, Politecnico di Milano, TU Karlsruhe, INSA Lyon, TU Vienna, Ohio State Univ., Columbus; Honorary Member of ASME, ASCE, ACI and RILEM; SES Prager Medal; ASME Timoshenko Medal, Warner Medal and Nádai Medal; ASCE von Kármán Medal; Newmark Medal, Biot Medal, Mindlin Medal, Croes Medal, Lifetime Achievement Award, Huber Prize and TY Lin Award (ASCE also created ZP Bažant Medal for Failure and Damage Prevention); W.Exner Medal, Austria Gov.-Industry Assoc.; RILEM L'Hermite Medal; Am. Ceramic Soc. Roy Award; Torroja Medal (Spain); Solín, Bažant (Sr.) & Stodola Medals (Czech Rep., Slovakia); IACMAG Outstanding Contrib. Award; ICOSSAR Lecture Award; SEAOI Meritorious Paper Award; Best Engrg. Book of the Year (SAP); Medal of Czech Soc. for Mech. (which also created ZP Bažant Prize for Eng. Mech.); National Winner of 1955 Math. Olympics of Czechoslovakia; and Guggenheim, NATO, Ford, Humboldt, JSPS & Kajima Fellowships. Honored by Special Issues of Int. J. of Solids & Structures and Int. J. of Fracture, and by 60^{th} , 70^{th} and 75^{th} birthday workshops & Proc. He authored 6 books (Scaling of Structural Strength, Inelastic Analysis, Fracture and Size Effect, Stability of Structures, Concrete at High Temperature, and Concrete Creep) and >550 refereed journal articles. H-index: 100, citations: >42,000 (on Google, Dec.2014, incl. self-cit.), i10 index: 476. He is one of the original top 100 ISI Highly Cited Scientists in Engrg. (www.ISIhighlycited.com.)

Home: http://cee.northwestern.edu/people/bazant/ .

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