



## Editorial

### *Tribute to Professor José Luiz Antunes de Oliveira e Sousa*

Although I was very shaken by the news of the passing of my great friend and spiritual brother José Luiz Antunes de Oliveira e Sousa, my heart is a little relieved by the fantastic memories I have of the moments we have shared over the last almost 40 years. And yet, for being sure that he fulfilled his mission in an exemplary way during his life. He was an exceptional engineer, professor, and a great human being, as well as a loving and present father and husband. My eternal thanks to him for all his friendship, companionship, and loyalty to me and my entire family.



Born in a large family with nine children, in his youth, he lived and studied in the city of São Carlos, in the interior of São Paulo. His parents were teachers at the school state system, and this was a great pride for him. He graduated in Civil Engineering from the São Carlos School of Engineering of the Universidade de São Paulo at the end of 1975.

From 1976, already in the city of São Paulo, he worked as an engineer for Promon Engenharia. In this company, he participated in structural projects of MetroSP, DAEE, SABESP, DERSA, Itaipu and Angra II. Undoubtedly, a time of great learning for him. In 1978, he moved, for a short time, to Maubertec Engenharia e Projetos where he continued his work in structural design for Metro-SP, COSIPA, Itauplan, Serveng-Civilsan, PM Suzano, and Engefer, among others. Later, between 1980 and 1983, he returned to Promon Engenharia. Between 1981 and 1982, for 20 months, he worked in Chile on the Colbún and Machicura Hydroelectric Plants projects in a Promon project for Endesa (Empresa Nacional de Electricidad).

In 1983, he was admitted as an Assistant Professor at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, his great dream. There he worked until his retirement in 2017, as Full Professor, and where he continued as a collaborating professor in the Graduate Program in Civil Engineering until 2020, when he decided to end his academic activities.

His productive academic trajectory and his involvement in the research area began effectively with the obtaining of the title of Master's in Civil Engineering in 1984, when he developed the dissertation entitled "Contribution to the Study of Cable-stayed Bridges", under the guidance of Professor Aluizio Fontana Margarido at the Polytechnic School of USP. In 1987, he was accepted by the prestigious Cornell University in the United States of America to pursue his PhD. There, he joined the group coordinated by Prof. Anthony Ingraffea, the prestigious Cornell Fracture Group. This group was linked to the Cornell Program of Computer Graphics, and already had the participation of another Brazilian, Prof. Luiz Fernando Martha from PUC-Rio. It was precisely at this time that we began to work together and since then we have become almost inseparable friends, always collaborating



with each other in the development of our academic activities, me at the Polytechnic School of USP and him at the Faculty of Civil Engineering UNICAMP. His doctoral thesis, "Three-dimensional Simulation of Near-Wellbore Phenomena Related to Hydraulic Fracturing from a Perforated Wellbore", addressed themes of fracture mechanics, hydraulic fracturing and non-flat crack modeling, and was defended in 1992.

Throughout his brilliant academic career, he developed activities in the topics of Iterative Numerical Analysis, Fracturing in Concrete and Rock Structures, Rock Mechanics Applied to Petroleum Engineering and Structural Monitoring. In 2002, he developed postdoctoral activities at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, under the supervision of Prof. Ravindra Gettu, and in 2015, he did another postdoctoral internship at the Bundesanstalt für Material Forschung und Prüfung – BAM in Berlin, under the supervision of Dr. Herbert Wiggenger and Prof. Christian Boller. He supervised 12 master's dissertations, 4 doctoral theses, and 17 undergraduate scientific projects in the area of Civil Engineering, in addition to the supervision of a postdoctoral project. He has published 22 articles in specialized journals, 2 book chapters, and 75 papers in events. These scientific works have reached more than 1,000 citations by his peers around the world, demonstrating the high impact index of his work. He participated in more than 26 international and 18 national events.

At IBRACON, he served as Director of Publications from 2007 to 2009. He started as a member of the Editorial Board of the Scientific Journal IBRACON STRUCTURAL JOURNAL, as well as its successor, this scientific journal IBRACON STRUCTURES AND MATERIALS JOURNAL. He was the main responsible for consolidating the prestige of this journal at the international level, having participated initially as its Editor in Chief, and later as its Editor Emeritus. He has always acted generously and voluntarily for the development of our Institute. For his activities at IBRACON, Prof. José Luiz Antunes de Oliveira e Sousa received the "GILBERTO MOLINARI" Award in 2011, in recognition to the relevant services he provided to IBRACON.

My dear friend and brother José Luiz, you have left us momentarily in this material plane, but your generosity, your refined sense of humor, your friendly atmosphere, your family and professional examples will be kept forever in the hearts of your family, friends, students, and co-workers. I finish this little tribute, mine and of this journal, with a mention to your family: Suzana, your dear wife, and your two daughters whom I followed growing up, Mariana and Marcela. Undoubtedly the two of them represent well your greatest and most important achievements. May God enlighten you and protect you along your way.

*Túlio Nogueira Bittencourt  
IBRACON Past President*