The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois announces the investiture of

Glaucio H. Paulino
as the Donald B. and Elizabeth M. Willett Professor of Engineering

Monday, April 28, 2008

Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology
405 North Mathews Avenue
Urbana, Illinois

Ceremony, 4:00 p.m.
Beckman Auditorium

Reception immediately following
Beckman, Room 1005
Donald B. and Elizabeth M. Willett

The Donald Biggar Willett Professorships honor the late Mr. Willett, who attended the University of Illinois from 1916-1922. He left the university six credits short of earning a B.S. degree from the Department of Civil Engineering. After leaving Urbana-Champaign, he joined his family’s Chicago-based coal business, Suburban Coal and Supply Company, as a partner.

In the 1930s, Mr. Willett moved to Los Angeles, where he owned a bookkeeping and tax preparation business. He died in 1981 at the age of 83. His wife, Elizabeth Marie Henning Willett, was a homemaker and managed the family savings; she was proud of the fact that she was able to accumulate a fortune through her investment strategies. The couple had no children.

According to Mrs. Willett, her late husband admired the College of Engineering for its thriftiness and honesty and therefore, left a bequest in his memory upon her death in 1993. As stated in her will, the gift was “for research, in memory of my beloved husband.”

In 1994, the College of Engineering established the Willett Research Initiatives Fund, which is used to support scholarships, fellowships, research awards, and other activities. The purpose of the Willett Professorships is to increase the distinction of the College and its departments by recognizing and stimulating intellectual leadership and outstanding research.

Glaucio H. Paulino

Donald B. and Elizabeth M. Willett Professor of Engineering

Professor Glaucio H. Paulino joined the CEE Department as an Assistant Professor in 1999. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2001 and to Professor in 2005. He is Technical Director of the Midwest Structural Sciences Center, a multidisciplinary center of the U.S. Air Force. He obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Brasilia and PUC-Rio in Brazil, respectively, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. His seminal contributions in the area of computational mechanics include development of methodologies to characterize deformation and fracture behavior of existing and emerging materials and structural systems. His recent research work spans topology optimization for large-scale and multiscale/multiphysics problems. He has devoted significant efforts to increasing collaborative work between the scientific communities in mechanics and materials from the U.S. and developing countries through a series of workshops funded by the National Science Foundation, including events in Brazil, Argentina, and South Africa. His other honors include appointment as the Burton and Erma Lewis Faculty Scholar (2001), Fellow of the Wessex Institute of Great Britain (2003), the Xerox Award for Faculty Research (2003), the MTS Visiting Professorship Chair in Geomechanics from the University of Minnesota (2004), the Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize (2004) from the American Society of Civil Engineers, Visiting Professor appointments at the University of São Paulo (2004 and 2005), and election as Chairman of the International Conference on Functionally Graded Materials (FGM 2006). His contributions to the permanent scientific literature include more than 100 scholarly publications in top peer-refereed journals and a new book on The Symmetric Galerkin Boundary Element Method, which will be published by Springer in 2008. He has given many national and international invited, keynote, and plenary lectures, and has been a successful engineering consultant to several private and federal institutions.