

Sherif El-Tawil is Professor and Associate Chair in the Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Department at the University of Michigan. He graduated with honors from Cairo University in 1989 with a BS in Civil Engineering and received a MS in Structural Engineering in 1991, also from Cairo University. In 1996, he received a PhD degree in Civil Engineering from Cornell University and subsequently joined the faculty of the University of Central Florida. He moved to the University of Michigan in 2002, where he has since been. He also served as Visiting Professor at the University of Rennes, France, in 2008 and the University of California, Irvine. His graduate students and postdocs have primarily gone into academic positions in the US and around the world.

El-Tawil's general research interest lies in computational modeling, analysis, and testing of structural materials and systems. He is especially interested in how buildings and bridges behave under the extreme loading conditions generated by manmade and natural hazards such as seismic excitation, impact, and blast. He is the lead author of a recently released American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) guide for seismic design of hybrid steel-concrete coupled walls, a new type of structural system. El-Tawil also has a strong and long-sustained interest in multi-disciplinary research. He has conducted research in human decision making and social interactions during extreme events and the use of agent based models for egress simulations. He is also interested in visualization and has developed new techniques for applying virtual reality in the field of finite element simulations and the use of augmented reality for rapid assessment of infrastructure damage in the wake of disasters.

A Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, El-Tawil is Editor-in-Chief for one of the Society's flagship journals, the Journal of Structural Engineering. He is a holder of two patents and has served as consultant to major companies and agencies such as the Florida Department of Transportation, Louisiana Department of Transportation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

El-Tawil's teaching, service and research efforts have been recognized through a number of national and international awards. Most notably, he is recipient of the Korean Concrete Institute's Paper of the Year Award, Hunan (China) University's Yuelu Lectureship Award, and ASCE's State-of-the-Art Award, Huber Research Prize, Moisseiff Award (twice), Wellington Prize, and Norman Medal, the most prestigious award given by the Society.

El-Tawil has served on many committees within the University of Michigan. He held most of the leadership positions within CEE at one point or the other during his tenure at UM. He was a member of the Scholastic Standing Committee and the Strategic Faculty Implementation Planning Committee (2003-2004), which produced recommended plans to "recruit, retain, and cultivate a vibrant and diverse, world-class faculty" within CoE.