

ANDREW STUART WHITTAKER

Doctor of Engineering, *honoris causa*

Professor Andrew Whittaker is a globally preeminent structural engineer whose pioneering work in earthquake and blast engineering has fundamentally advanced the resilience and safety of infrastructure worldwide. Professor Whittaker's career reflects a rare combination of scholarly excellence, real-world impact, and international thought leadership. Professor Whittaker is a proud alumnus of the University of Melbourne (BE Civil Engineering, 1977).

After graduating from Melbourne, he commenced his career with the Connell Wagner Group in Melbourne (1978–1984), where he gained extensive practical experience in civil and structural engineering. He then pursued advanced studies at the University of California, Berkeley, earning an MS in Civil Engineering in 1985 and a PhD in 1988—launching his trajectory as one of the most respected figures in structural and earthquake engineering.

Following a formative period with San Francisco-based consultancy Forell/Elsesser (1989–1991), Professor Whittaker returned to UC Berkeley to serve as Associate Director of the Earthquake Engineering Research Center (1992–2000), one of the nation's two leading research hubs in the field. In late 2000, he joined the University at Buffalo, where he rose through the ranks to become SUNY Distinguished Professor in 2018—the highest academic honour conferred by the State University of New York.

Throughout his career, Professor Whittaker has authored or co-authored over 600 publications. His technical contributions have directly shaped international design standards and codes, including FEMA P-58 and ASCE/SEI Standards 4, 7, 43, and 59, which govern the safety of buildings, nuclear facilities, and blast-resistant infrastructure. He has chaired the ASCE Nuclear Standards Committee since 2015 and served on U.S. congressional advisory panels and National Research Council committees.

A renowned academic leader, he chaired the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering at Buffalo (2010–2016), and led MCEER (2011–2019), and the Institute of Bridge Engineering (2014-2026). Under his stewardship, these centres expanded their research footprint and policy impact. His ability to integrate fundamental research with practical application has earned him widespread respect from government, industry, and academia.

Professor Whittaker is also a transformative mentor and educator. He has supervised 24 PhD students—many now in academic positions worldwide—and has championed the advancement of women and underrepresented minorities in engineering. His influence extends globally through his past roles with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the Consortium of Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering, and the World Seismic Safety Initiative.

His achievements have been recognized with numerous prestigious awards, including the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Stephen D. Bechtel Jr. Energy Award (2016), Walter P. Moore Jr. Award (2017), Nathan M. Newmark Medal (2023), and the American Nuclear Society's Untermyer & Cisler Reactor Technology Medal (2023). He is a Distinguished Member of ASCE (a unique honour restricted to those who have attained eminence in civil engineering) and a Fellow of both the Structural Engineering Institute and the American Concrete Institute.

Professor Whittaker has maintained a strong and enduring research collaboration with the University, mentoring early-career researchers, co-publishing with Melbourne-based academics, and contributing to joint research initiatives in structural and seismic engineering. His ongoing engagement has supported capacity building in engineering resilience across Australia and strengthened the global partnerships of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology. He remains an active ambassador for the University, inspiring students and advancing international academic networks.