

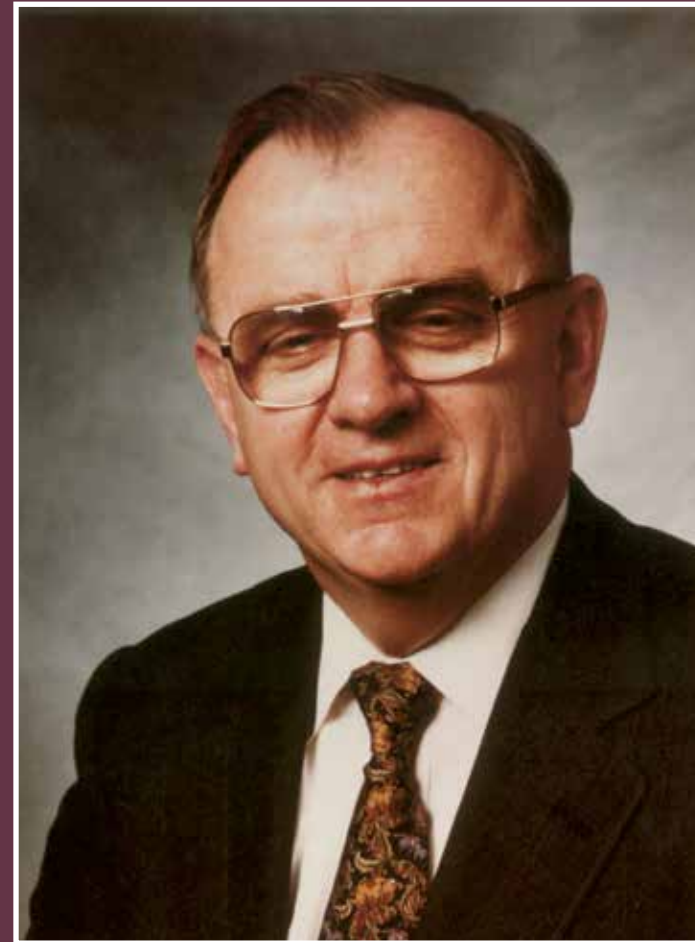
# 50 YEARS, TWO CEOS: BERNIE & DAVE

**B**ernard F. Langan, a superb engineer and entrepreneur, started a geotechnical engineering shop in 1970. His vision was to become a “developer’s consultant,” which meant being incredibly responsive to clients with technically excellent solutions that could help get buildings built better and faster. As a born leader, he was more than up to the task, even at the young age of 30. Bernie was both fearless and funny; he commanded attention and captivated clients with practical wisdom and wit. Bernie had a unique ability to apply innovative soil mechanics to overcome challenging site conditions and make difficult projects constructible. He recognized that bringing value to a client’s business would bring value to his firm and its growing reputation. To this day that mutually beneficial relationship between consultant and client remains a cornerstone at Langan.

The early years saw Bernie and his team take on large projects primarily in the New York Metro area, but also in Florida and the Midwest. From shopping centers to complex industrial sites, and from tightly constrained urban redevelopments to towers and stadiums, Bernie forged Langan’s brand as a firm that could tackle the toughest projects. His drive propelled Langan forward and inspired the firm to provide the highest level of professional service. Langan grew steadily by expanding its client base and adding environmental engineering as a core discipline. The one-stop shop model of “ground and down” services – geotechnical, site/civil, and environmental engineering – further differentiated Langan and brought even more value to clients by streamlining what could be a cumbersome consultant management process.

In 1974, Bernie opened a Miami office, then directed expansions to Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut. Upon his retirement, Langan had grown from four founders to 250 employees. Most importantly, Bernie’s entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence was passed on to the next generation of Langan

leaders. Appropriately, a genius geotechnical engineer designed the foundation of a firm whose reach, reputation, and success have soared sky high.



BERNARD F. LANGAN  
1970 - 2004

**D**avid T. Gockel joined Langan in 1982, when the firm had only 36 employees. Throughout his career he always welcomed tough assignments, starting with his first project, the complex redevelopment of the Jersey City waterfront. Since then he has served as project manager or principal-in-charge of MetLife Stadium, American Dream Meadowlands, Prudential Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Care Center, and overseas Department of Defense Dependent Schools.

His effectiveness as a client-focused project manager and his leadership abilities launched him through the ranks at Langan. Dave was ultimately named successor to Bernie, becoming the firm’s second President & CEO in 2004, a role he still serves today as Langan celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Since Dave assumed leadership, Langan has grown fivefold in size from 250 employees to over 1,200 today, and from seven offices to more than 30. Such results were driven by Dave’s ability to leverage Langan’s potential in many ways. He greatly improved communication and knowledge sharing around the firm, promoting and rewarding collaboration among offices and technical experts. He also pushed Langan to explore opportunities in different markets, including energy infrastructure and renewables, such as wind and solar.

Perhaps Dave’s biggest test as CEO came during the 2008 recession. Rather than cut back and wait out the downturn like most other firms, Dave boldly led Langan through a period of unprecedented expansion. He directed the opening of offices in Washington, DC, Pittsburgh,

Cleveland, and Houston, while supporting his partners to expand into other US cities and international markets. In 2010, Dave drove the firm’s first and only acquisition, which was San Francisco-based Treadwell & Rollo, a move that added four California offices and extended Langan’s reach from coast to coast.

By any measure, Dave has helped take Langan to impressive levels. Yet he largely credits Langan’s success to his talented partners, and to the entrepreneurial culture created by Bernie. Since taking the reins, Dave and the Langan leadership team have enhanced the firm’s reputation to that of a national consultant capable of supporting challenging projects throughout the country and around the world.



DAVID T. GOCKEL  
2004 - current