



About GSI

The Geosynthetic Institute (GSI) was incorporated in Delaware on December 16, 1991 and received non-profit 501(c) 3 status in 1994. There are five interrelated institutes under the GSI umbrella. They are:

- GEI – Geosynthetic Education Institute
- GRI – Geosynthetic Research Institute
- GII – Geosynthetic Information Institute
- GCI – Geosynthetic Certification Institute
- GAI – Geosynthetic Accreditation Institute

These institutes aim to develop and transfer knowledge, assess and critique geosynthetics and to provide services to the member organizations.

The Geosynthetic Institute is located in Folsom, Pennsylvania, 3miles (5km) from the Philadelphia International Airport, which is an added convenience for members. Dr. George R. Koerner is the current director and has held this position since 2014. He received his PhD. in 1993 from Drexel University and has worked in the geosynthetic industry for over 30 years.

About the Founders

The Geosynthetic Institute (originally the Geosynthetic Research Institute) was founded by Dr. Robert M. Koerner (1933-2019) and Mrs. Paula W. Koerner (1932-2019) in 1986. Dr. Robert M. Koerner received his master’s degree from Drexel University in 1963, followed by a Ph.D. from Duke University in 1968. Upon graduating, Dr. Koerner became a professor in the Civil Engineering department at Drexel University, where he taught until his retirement in 2004. In 1980, Bob co-authored the first textbook on geosynthetics and his passion for geosynthetics took off. With encouragement from his wife Paula, Bob went on to write “Designing with Geosynthetics”, which is used worldwide for information on all facets of geosynthetics. In 1998 Dr. Koerner was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering. Dr. Robert Koerner had received many accolades throughout his career and his final award, the A.J. Drexel Paul Award, was presented in November, 2019. In addition to his awards, both Paula and Bob were very proud of the Koerner Family Foundation, established in 2002 www.kffoundation.org, which awards scholarships annually to graduate students in various Engineering fields.