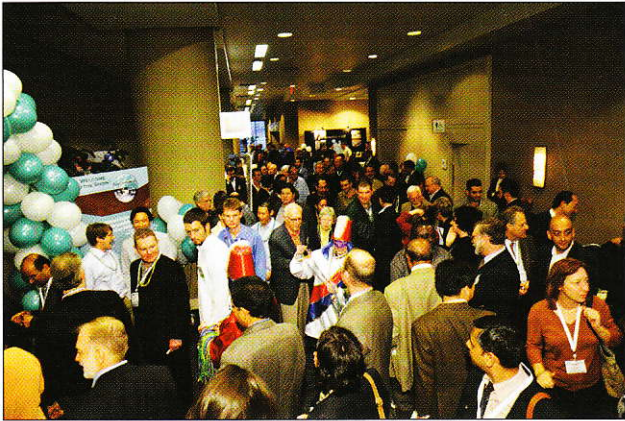


GeoCongress 2008...

Another G-I Success

By Linda Bayer



This year's G-I Annual GeoCongress was a great success! Approximately 800 people made their way to New Orleans on March 9-12, 2008 to share their experiences and to learn new technologies from the numerous experts in attendance. Conference organizers were pleased to see that more than 25 percent of the participants came from outside the U.S., which provided an even wider knowledge base for conference discussions.

Those in attendance were rewarded with the opportunity to participate in 67 technical sessions, 9 panel discussions, 6 keynote presentations, lots of networking time, and 13.5 hours to visit the sold-out Exhibit Hall.

Duncan Gives Seed Lecture

More than 350 people listened intently to Sunday's Seed lecturer, J. Michael Duncan, Ph.D., P.E., Hon. M.ASCE, as he provided an insightful look into the "Failure of Flood Walls During Hurricane Katrina." Said one lecture attendee, "Dr. Duncan's talk really helped me understand the numerous things that need to be considered when undertaking such an important job. There's no room for second-guessing in a geotech's work."



J. Michael Duncan

New Orleans Culture Comes Alive

Sunday's gala Welcome Reception kicked the Congress off in true New Orleans style as attendees donned brightly-colored beaded necklaces and enjoyed the sights and sounds

of an authentic New Orleans Mardi Gras band and revelers. The festivities continued throughout the Exhibit Hall with great food, plenty of drink, and many smiling faces. "To date," says G-I Director Carol W. Bowers, P.G., CAE, "the only negative comment I got was from an exhibitor who said that the Welcome Reception was too crowded. That's the best complaint I've ever received!"

A Dynamic Trio Opens Monday's Sessions

Krishna R. Reddy, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, one of the Congress' co-chairs, opened Monday's Plenary Session, setting the tone of the conference and giving the audience pause for thought by asking "What is our role? What are we going to be? We have to ensure that we bring our talents to the world to ensure that we satisfy the needs of the public."

G-I President Art Hoffmann, P.E., M.ASCE, stated that a Russian delegation, among other international delegations, was present at the conference and that "...the G-I needs to be our members' indispensable resource."

James K. Mitchell, P.E., Sc.D., Dist.M.ASCE, Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech, and one of the three plenary speakers, then provided his "Assessment of the Performance of Engineered Barriers for Waste Containment." Walter Kovalick, assistant regional administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, followed Mr. Mitchell by discussing "Current Topics in Site Assessment and Remediation." Ken Klaus, USACE Mississippi Valley Division, closed the session by sharing his views on the "Geotechnical Aspects of the Reconstruction of New Orleans' Hurricane Protection System."

A Fitting Tribute Precedes Wu and the Peck Lecture

Immediately preceding Monday's Peck Lecture, Suzanne Lacasse, D.Sc., P.E., F.ASCE, director of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, member of the National Academy of Engineering, and longtime friend of Ralph Peck, presented a very memorable tribute to Ralph Peck who passed away on February 18 of this year.



Tien H. Wu

The Peck Lecture was given by Tien H. Wu, Ph.D., P.E., Hon.M.ASCE. Dr. Wu provided a fascinating "Case History of an Embankment on Soft Ground" by discussing the design and construction of I-270 in Columbus, OH. He ended his

presentation by quoting Karl Terzaghi: "A natural soil is never homogeneous. Its properties change from point to point."

Move Over. Attendees Pack G-I Annual Meeting

More than 100 people packed the G-I Annual Meeting on Monday evening to learn about the G-I's year in review, as well as the goals for the future. In addition to president Hoffmann's outline of the numerous Strategic Plan action items undertaken by Board-appointed Task Forces during 2007, G-I Past President John Anderson, Ph.D., P.E., G.E., conveyed highlights of the numerous G-I accomplishments throughout 2007:

- Sponsorship and/or participation in four major conferences,
- Facilitation of a coalition of geo-organizations called the Geo-Coalition held in Reston, VA on May 21-22, 2007. This group effectively replaces



Hat's off to Board & Meetings Specialist, Lauren Tighe



Prize winner Kwasi Badu-Tweneboah

the Geo-Council,

- 3 new G-I Chapters: Maryland G-I Chapter; San Antonio, TX G-I Chapter; and Alabama G-I Chapter,
- One new G-I Graduate Student Organization: University of Oklahoma,
- 22 new Geotechnical Special Publications (GSPs),
- A G-I Board-hosted reception for Boston area G-I members at the FMGM conference in September,
- The December 2007 launch of a new "Members-Only" page, featuring a "Question of the Month" on the G-I web site, and
- Creation of a Board-level Student Participation Committee to help increase student involvement in G-I activities.

The meeting also provided the opportunity for Technical Coordination Council Chair Barbara Luke, Ph.D., P.E., to congratulate the G-I Risk Assessment and Management Committee on winning the Committee of the Year. Jonathan Stewart, Ph.D.,

"CPT: The Tool to Manage Your Risk"



A.P. Van den Berg® Inc.

Cone Penetration Test (CPT) Equipment

Skid-mounted equipment with or without cabin available for USA market

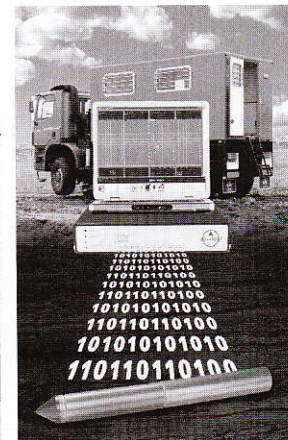
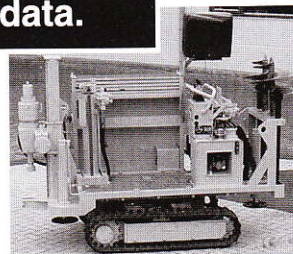
GEOTECHNICAL- ENVIRONMENTAL- SEISMIC

Hydraulic Penetrometers - Electrical & Mechanical Cones
Specialized systems for data acquisition, sampling and drilling

New Digital cone: Icone. More user-friendly, cost-effective, stronger & high-quality data.

A.P. Van den Berg, Inc.
P.O. Box 654
Milford PA 18337
USA
Tel: 570-296-8224
Fax: 570-296-4886
E-mail: apvdberg@ptd.net

A.P. Van den Berg, B.V.
P.O. Box 68
8440 AB Heerenveen
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 513 63 1355
Fax: +31 513 63 1212
E-mail: info@apvdberg.nl



Web: www.apvdberg.com

P.E., Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering (JGGE)*, also provided Service Awards to Antonio Bobet, Mohamad Hussein, and Chuck Ladd. Additionally, Peter Wu, P.Eng., president of the Canadian Geotechnical Society, congratulated the G-I on its fine conference.

The Annual meeting concluded with presentation of a dozen door prizes. The grand prize, a full registration to next year's G-I, ADSC, and PDCA joint annual conference—IFCEE '09 in Orlando FL, was won by Barbara Luke.

Women Dropouts. What's the Answer?

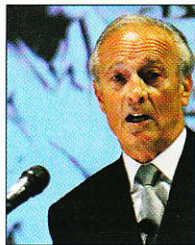


Diane Matt

Diane Matt, CAE, executive director of the Women in Engineering Programs & Advocates Network, Inc. (WEPAN), concluded Monday's activities with a most sobering overview of "Women in the Geo-Profession: Problems and Solutions from Women in Engineering." Ms. Matt outlined today's engineering challenge that while 48 percent (about 820,000) of high-school senior females are engineering ready, less than 2 percent (15,282) receive engineering bachelor's degrees. And, only 17 percent (1,136) of those earning engineering Ph.D.s are women. She highlighted that "to ensure a U.S. engineering workforce that is fit for the future, cooperation will be required between government, industry, academia, and not-for-profit entities. Each sector, standing alone, cannot accomplish the needed change nor provide a sustainable solution."

Giroud's Terzaghi Lecture

The Terzaghi Lecture, by J.P. Giroud, Ph.D., M.ASCE on "Criteria for Granular and Geotextile Filters" was the highlight of Tuesday's schedule. In attendance specifically to hear Dr. Giroud's lecture was Olivier Brochenin, the French consul général, who was pleased and impressed by the civil engineering community. According to a French national, "This is good because, in France, as in the U.S., civil engineers should be better recognized for what they do for society." Consul général Brochenin will circulate a report which will be good for the international engineering community.



J.P. Giroud

Hats Off to This Years Winners

Wednesday's annual Heroes and Awards Luncheon was truly a gala event which honored some of our geo-profession's most eminent individuals.

- Hero: David E. Daniel, Ph.D., P.E., Dist. M.ASCE, NAE President, University of Texas-Dallas
- Hero: John S. Schmertmann, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE Professor Emeritus, University of Florida and consulting engineer



From left: A. Hoffmann, K. Reddy, D. Crapps, J. Schmertmann, J. Bowders, G. Boutwell, D. Daniel, B. Gross

- Dr. George A. Munfakh, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE
2008 Wallace Hayward Baker Award Winner
- David E. Weatherby, P.E., M.ASCE
Schnabel Foundation Company
2008 Harry Schnabel Jr. Award Winner for Career Excellence in Earth Retaining Structures
- Dr. Dayakar Penumadu, Ph.D., A.M.ASCE
Professor, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
2008 JGGE Editorial Board Member of the Year Award Winner
- Abouzar Sadrekarimi, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Winner, Student Paper Competition Award
Paper Title: "Shearing Behavior of Sands in Terms of Compressibility Mechanisms"

Students Make Their Mark at GeoCongress

Students were also the focus of several GeoCongress 2008 events. In addition to a special 30-minute student/exhibitor-only Meet-And-Greet Reception in the Exhibit Hall, students had the opportunity to participate in a workshop led by Patricia J. Culligan of Columbia University, who provided tips on how to build a resume and how to apply for a junior faculty position.



LSU: The winning student team.

(continued on page 40)