Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

DISTINGUISHED SEMINAR

Lessons From Forensic Geotechnical Engineering

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Chair, Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, University of Texas, Austin.

Thursday November 29, 2018
103 Churchill Hall
12:00 PM

This seminar is free and open to the public.

Abstract: The practice of geotechnical engineering is guided by lessons learned from failures and successes. This talk will describe recent case histories in forensic geotechnical engineering: a failure of a landfill cover slope; a failure and a success of pile foundation systems subjected to extreme loads in hurricanes; and a wave-induced failure of a submarine slope. The lessons learned from these case histories include the importance of designing for interim conditions during construction, the value of collaborating with versus working for structural engineers, and the difficulty of designing for failure.

Biography: ROBERT B. GILBERT P.E., Ph.D., D.GE, M.ASCE is Chair of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He joined the faculty in 1993 after practicing as a geotechnical engineer for five years with Golder Associates Inc. His technical focus is the assessment, evaluation and management of risk for civil engineering systems. Recent activities include analyzing the performance of offshore platforms and pipelines in Gulf of Mexico hurricanes; managing flooding risks for levees in Texas, California, Washington and Louisiana; and performing a review of design and construction for the new Bay Bridge in San Francisco. Dr. Gilbert has been awarded the Norman Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers and an Outstanding Civilian Service Medal from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

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