

The 2008 Distinguished Lecturer:

Robert D. Holtz, Ph.D., P.E.

Professor of Civil Engineering
University of Washington, Seattle



Bob Holtz, Ph.D., P.E., is Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Washington (since 1988). He previously was on the faculty at Purdue University for 15 years, and he has worked for the California Dept. of Water Resources, Swedish Geotechnical Institute, NRC-Canada, and as a consulting engineer in Chicago, France, and Italy. His research interests include geosynthetics, soil improvement, foundations, soil properties, and geo-environmental engineering. His research has been sponsored by NSF, FHWA, U.S. Air Force, Indiana Dept. of Highways, Washington State Dept. of Transportation, Washington Technology Center, and several private companies.

He is author, co-author, or editor of 22 books and book chapters, including *An Introduction to Geotechnical Engineering* (with W. D. Kovacs, 1981), the FHWA *Geotextile Engineering Manual* (with B. R. Christopher, 1985), *Geosynthetics for Soil Improvement* (ASCE 1988), FHWA *Geosynthetic Design and Construction Guidelines* (with B. R.

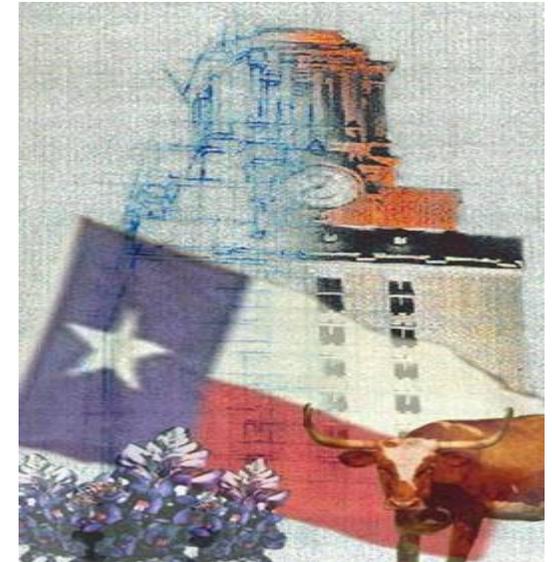
Christopher, 1989 and 1995), *Prefabricated Vertical Drains: Design and Performance* (with Jamiolkowski, Lancellotta, and Pedroni, 1991), Chapter 5 on “Pressure Distribution and Settlement” in *Foundation Engineering Handbook* (H. Y. Fang, Editor, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1991), *Grouting, Soil Improvement, and Geosynthetics* (ASCE 1992), Chapter 23 on “Geosynthetics” in *Civil Engineering Handbook* (CRC Press 1995), Chapter 17 on “Stabilization of Soil Slopes” in *Landslides: Investigation and Mitigation* (with R. Schuster, TRB 1996), *Geosynthetic Engineering* (with B. R. Christopher and R. R. Berg, BiTech 1997), and Chapter 15 on “Foundation Soil Improvement” in *Geotechnical Engineering Handbook* (with J. Q. Shang and D. Bergado, Kluwer 2001). He also is author or co-author of more than 270 technical papers, discussions, reviews, and major reports.

In addition to his extensive professional and technical society activities, Bob Holtz has taught many short courses and given numerous seminars and lectures both in the US and abroad. He was the Kersten Lecturer (1989), Distinguished Lecturer at the University of Houston (1989) and the Kentucky Geotechnical Engineering Group (1996), the 38th Ardaman Lecturer (1999), the Cross-Canada Lecturer for 1999 for the Canadian Geotechnical Society, and the 9th Spencer J. Buchanan Lecturer (2001). He presented the 8th Robert L. Schiffman ‘44 Geotechnical Colloquium at Cornell University (2003), and the 3rd G. A. Leonards Lecture at Purdue University (2005). He was the J. S. Braun/Braun Intertec Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota, January-June 2002, and in 2006, he was named an IGS Pioneer by the International Geosynthetics Society. He became a Distinguished Member of ASCE in 2007, and was named Puget Sound Academic Engineer of the Year in 2008.

Bob Holtz is a registered professional engineer in California and Indiana, and throughout his academic career, he has had an active consulting practice. His projects have involved various aspects of geosynthetics, foundations, soil reinforcing, soil improvement, slope stability and landslides, investigation of failures, and acting as an expert witness. His clients have included public agencies, civil and geotechnical engineering consultants and contractors, attorneys, individual citizens, and many companies in North America as well as abroad.

The University of Texas at Austin
with
Fugro
present the

2008 Lymon C. Reese Distinguished Lecture



Robert D. Holtz, Ph.D., P.E.
Professor of Civil Engineering
University of Washington, Seattle

*“Geosynthetics – The First New Civil
Engineering Material in
More than 100 Years”*

Thursday, May 8, 4:00 p.m.
Thompson Conference Center
University of Texas at Austin

Reception immediately following the lecture

Honoring:

DR. LYMON C. REESE, Ph.D., P.E.

Professor, Nasser I. Al-Rashid Chair Emeritus
in Civil Engineering
Department of Civil, Architectural and
Environmental Engineering
University of Texas at Austin

Lymon Reese was born in the hills of southwest Arkansas where his father was an employee of a timber company, a "log scaler." Lymon was the youngest of three children. The family lived in a small house consisting of a rail car on a siding and an attached building. Within a few years, the family moved to Murfreesboro where his Father became Tax-Assessor Collector and Lymon and his siblings attended the local schools. Later the family moved to Abilene, Texas, where Lymon completed high school. While in Abilene High School, Lymon worked as a caddy at the Abilene Country Club, beginning a life-long love of the game of golf. He earned fifty cents a round, money that was taken home to help the family. His Father had become ill, the Great Depression bore down, and his Mother kept boarders in the home to help make ends meet.

Lymon was Salutatorian of his high school class. He spoke against a *laissez-faire* attitude toward education and argued for training in high school that would help the graduates find a job. He worked as a groundskeeper during the summer to pay for tuition to Abilene Christian College. The depression continued unabated and, with no money to purchase books, he reluctantly gave up college and worked full-time to help his family. In 1939 he took a Civil Service examination and got a job on a land-surveying party at the salary of \$85 a month. His Father had died and his Mother moved with him to the Rio Grande Valley. His surveying team set the stakes for building levees along the River.

Lymon learned surveying, while working as a helper on the team, and left for Birmingham, Alabama, where surveyors were being hired to build an ordnance plant. He convinced the interviewer to give him a job as a Party Chief and worked on the layout and construction of buildings in the plant. He and his

Mother were living in Alabama when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Later they moved for similar work in Oklahoma where he volunteered for the U.S. Naval Construction Battalions (SeaBees). He served as Chief Petty Officer in the Aleutians and Okinawa.

On being discharged, Lymon worked briefly in construction before being accepted at Rice University as a freshman at age 29. He earned 22 semester hours in a fast-track semester and lettered on the golf team. He transferred to The University of Texas where a more flexible degree plan was offered. While a student, he married fellow-student, EvaLee Jett. Their first baby girl arrived in 1949 and EvaLee left her nursing education career to pursue full-time motherhood. After receiving his Master's Degree at Texas, Lymon accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at Mississippi State University. After a year, he took a leave from Mississippi State and moved with his family (Sally and John now for EvaLee to manage) and went to the University of California at Berkeley for his PhD. His college education was funded by the GI Bill, a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation, and a competitive fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

His third child, Nancy, had arrived and, in 1955, the family left Mississippi to accept a position as Assistant Professor at The University of Texas. He spent the remainder of his career at Texas. Dr. Reese is the Nasser I. Al Rashid Chair Emeritus and Professor of Civil Engineering and was Chairman of the Department from 1965 until 1972. He was Associate Dean of the College for Research from 1972 until 1979. He maintains a close relationship with the University and teaches occasionally.

Dr. Reese has done extensive research in the field of geotechnical engineering, principally concerning the behavior of deep foundations. He pioneered performing field studies of instrumented piles and developed analytical methods now widely used in the design of major structures. He is author or co-author of 160 papers in refereed journals and 282 technical reports. He is the senior author of two recent books on foundation engineering. He has presented over 450 invited lectures in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Reese was selected in 1986 by the American Society of Civil Engineers as Terzaghi Lecturer, and he received the Terzaghi Award in 1983. He was chosen

by his peers to receive the Joe J. King Professional Achievement Award from the College of Engineering, The University of Texas, in February, 1977. He was invited by the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section of ASCE to present the 2004 Arthur Casagrande Memorial Lecture in Boston.

Dr. Reese has long been active in ASCE and was elected Honorary Member in 1984. He has held various offices in the Texas Section and was President of the Texas Section in 1968-69. For several years he served as a member of the Executive Committee, Geotechnical Engineering Division, and was Chairman in 1986-87. He is a registered professional engineer in Texas.

Dr Reese lost his beloved EvaLee, a skilled and prolific amateur artist, to cancer in 2003. He continues to be actively involved with his three children, 11 grandchildren and great-grandchildren whose numbers are growing yearly. He also continues to enjoy a weekly game of golf, often with his son and some of his grandsons. Most of his time at present is spent at Ensoft, Inc., a distributor of engineering software, where he is principal. Some of his consulting activities are carried out through Lymon C. Reese & Associates, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ensoft.

Significant honors received by Dr. Reese include the Offshore Technology Conference Distinguished Achievement Award for Individuals in 1985, and the Distinguished Graduate Award of the College of Engineering, The University of Texas, in 1985. He was elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering in 1975. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the Civil Engineering Institute of Bucharest, Romania, in 1994.

During his 33-year career at The University of Texas, Dr. Reese supervised 71 graduate students who received the M.S. or PhD in Civil Engineering. EvaLee frequently worked with the wives and children of these students, making them welcome in the United States, assisting them with housing, shopping, and local resources. Twelve of the students became professors at universities worldwide, and at least eight established businesses that have hundreds of employees. Many of the students and their families maintain ongoing correspondence with Dr. Reese.