

# Center for Geotechnical Practice and Research Annual Lecture Program

Thursday, February 23, 2006

Alumni Assembly Hall  
Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center  
Blacksburg, Virginia

**8:15-9:00**      **David Pezza**      “An Overview of the Levee Assessment in  
*US Army Corps - Chief's Office*      New Orleans”

Performance of hurricane protection systems in southeastern Louisiana during hurricanes Katrina and Rita is of great current interest. The presentation will highlight specific efforts to assess levee performance, and the status of current interagency studies.

**9:15-10:00**      **John Lessley, S&ME – Columbia, SC**      “Press Pit Foundation – Oriented  
and      Strand Board Plant, Fairfax, SC”  
**Majid Tavakoli, Thompson Pumps**

Construction of a 285 ft by 105 ft industrial press pit required a 44 ft deep excavation through clean sands, extending roughly 40 ft below the water table. Foundation soil compression and differential movements were evaluated for various stages of construction. Equally important was a plan for deactivating the dewatering system and backfilling the structure to limit the risk of hydrostatic uplift as construction progressed.

**10:15-11:00**      **David Shiells**      “Soft Ground Technologies – What Every  
*VDOT - Northern Virginia*      Owner Should Consider”  
*District*

As part of the \$2.4 billion Woodrow Wilson Bridge Reconstruction mega-project, VDOT is using a wide variety of ground improvement and geo-technologies to reconstruct the Route 1 Interchange across extremely soft tidal marshland. The presentation will provide insight into the design decisions and philosophies, as well as some lessons learned during construction.

## Keynote Speaker

**11:15-12:15**      **Dr. William F. Marcuson III**      “ASCE – The Future”  
*ASCE President-elect*

Dr. Marcuson will be our plenary speaker, discussing changes under way to improve the effectiveness of ASCE in serving its members and the public. He was installed as the President-elect of ASCE in October 2005, and will serve as president beginning in October 2006. He joined the US Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experimental Station in 1970, and served as Director of the organization's Geotechnical Laboratory from 1981 until his retirement in 2000.

All are welcome to attend



<http://cgpr.ce.vt.edu>