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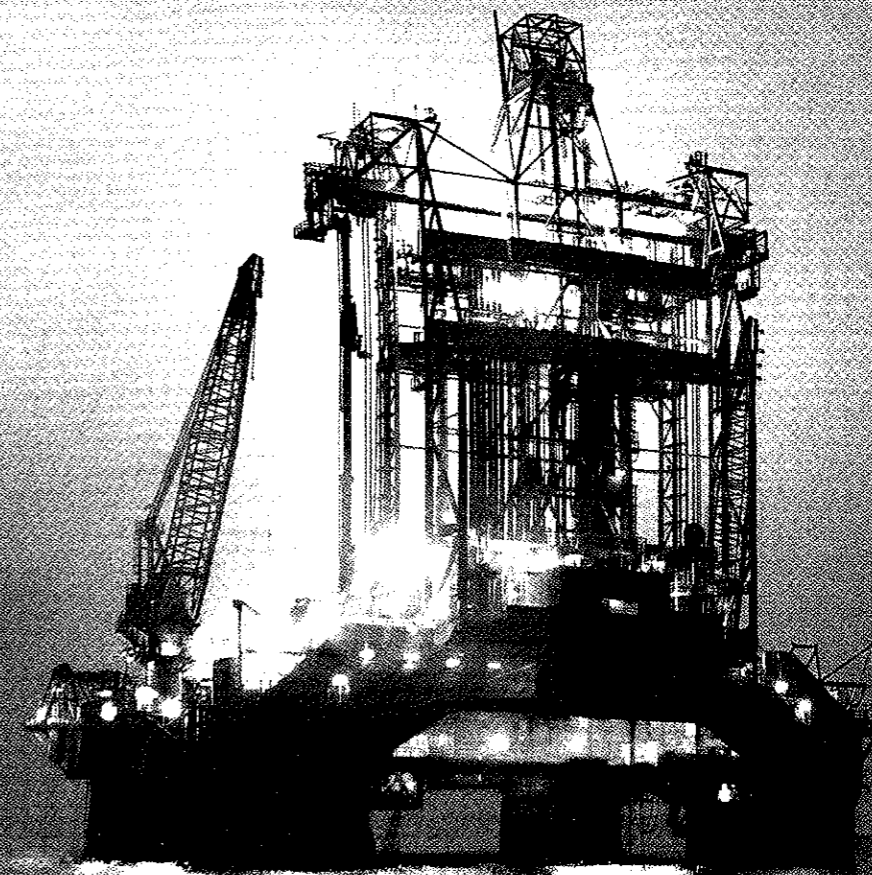
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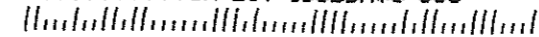
May/June 2007

# Geo-Strata

## Offshore Geotechnics



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**GEO  
 INSTITUTE**

## President's Letter

**John E. Anderson, Ph.D., P.E., G.E.**

Dear Geo-Institute Members,

I'm writing this shortly after the Geo-Institute's 2007 very successful Annual Congress in Denver. It was quite an exciting event during which more than 900 people participated in numerous educational and social events. The sold-out Exhibit Hall and Career Fair boasted lots of activity and satisfied participants. Additionally, I enjoyed meeting many new people.

During the G-I Board of Governor's day-long meeting held in conjunction with the Congress, we received the final report of the Professional Practice Council (PPC) Review Task Force. This Task Force was established last May to review the Professional Practice Council's priorities and to provide direction to the Council. The report marks a milestone in achieving one of our Strategic Priorities/Goals—being responsive to the needs of our professional practice community. The fundamental conclusion of the Task Force was to establish stronger relationships with the ASCE Section



Career Fair

and Branch Geotechnical Group programs. This aligns with the G-I's goal of building relationships that strengthen both the geo-practitioner community and the G-I as a professional society. Such actions are in the public interest and in

keeping with the ASCE Canons of Ethics for the professional society.

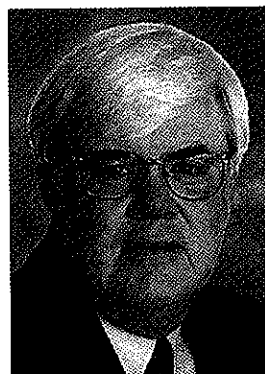
Some of the specific recommendations of the Task Force were to:

- Develop and maintain a program that address both internal and external communications relative to professional practice of geotechnical/geoenvironmental engineering;
- Develop strong, proactive relations with local geogroups;
- Initiate a concerted effort to work with local groups in elevating actions and/or trends affecting the geotechnical practice that are counter to the public interest;
- Evaluate the available resources of the G-I to facilitate communications.

In the coming months, the G-I Board will begin to address the recommendations of the Task Force to better serve you, our members. I'd like to thank Task Force chairman, Ron Smith, and the members of the Task Force for their efforts.

As I previously mentioned, the Geo-Denver 2007 Congress was very successful and on behalf of the Board of Governors, I'd like to thank the co-chairmen of the Organizing Com-

mittee, Stein Sture and Vaughan Griffiths, and the other members of the committee for their efforts. Each year, our Annual Congress builds on the success of our previous Congresses, and it was clearly evident that the 2007 sessions continued this trend. In addition to the dozens of outstanding technical programs and Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud's Peck Lecture and Dr. George Gobel's Terzaghi Lecture presentations, the Congress featured several other exciting events focused on the G-I's commitment to our students and women professionals.



### Geo-Challenge Student Competition

Students from across the country again competed in the exciting MSE Geo-Challenge on Wednesday morning. This challenge involves constructing a scaled-down model of a mechanically-stabilized earth wall where dry sand must be retained within a plywood form that has one removable panel. The stabilized wall behind the removable panel was made of poster-board, to which kraft-paper reinforcement strips are taped. The event was judged on the wall's capacity to support a design load (sand), the amount of reinforcement (paper) that is used, the time to construct the wall, and the quality of a design report. The six teams that competed in the event this year were: University of Missouri—Columbia, University of Missouri—Rolla, University of Florida, University of Texas at Austin, Washington State University, and University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The University of Missouri—Columbia was proclaimed as the winner.



Student Event

### Geo-Denver Student Paper Competition

The Geo-Denver 2007 Organizing Committee invited graduate and undergraduate students to submit technical papers to the Congress. The papers had to represent the original work of the student and had to be authored by the student alone. A faculty member or other advisor could not have co-authored the paper, but may have helped oversee the preparation of the manuscript. This year's winner, Alan F. Witthoef, University of Oklahoma, presented his work on the application of geofoam to reduce lateral earth pressure in MSE wall backfill during the Educational Activities session.