Geo-Legend Interview Primer

The Geo-Legends article is published in GEOSTRATA and provides an opportunity for Graduate Student Organizations (GSO) to interview a distinguished academic or practitioner in geotechnical engineering and prepared an article suitable for publication in GEOSTRATA magazine. The purpose of this article is to introduce GEOSTRATA readers to the Geo-Legends by highlighting their: personal motivation for pursuing geotechnical engineering, influential mentors, memorable projects, education background, and wisdom gained from their life and professional career.

1. Identify Geo-Legend: you can search for the candidates in Appendix A which lists the potential Geo-Legends who have already been approved by GEOSTRATA Board. Appendix B, C and D list Geo-Legends interviewed or contacted, who cannot be interviewed again. It is strongly recommended that the Geo-Legend not be a professor at your home institution. The article is an opportunity to meet and network with a well-respected geotechnical engineer.

If you may know a viable candidate as a Geo-Legend who is not listed in Appendix A, you need to contact Dr. Jim Withiam (jlwithiam@dappolonia.com) from GEOSTRATA Board for approval of the selected Geo-Legend.

2. Inform Geo-Legends Committee Chair: Once you decide to interview a Geo-Legend, you need to inform the Geo-Legends Committee Chair (Merve Gizem Bozkurt, bozkurt@wisc.edu) on the name of the Geo-Legend and the schedule for the interview. The Geo-Legends Committee Chair will coordinate with Dr. Jim Withiam to decide the targeting issue of GEOSTRATA magazine for your article.

3. Contact/schedule the interview: The interview can be performed via teleconference or in-person.

4. Interview the Geo-Legend: Before the interview, you should research the Geo-Legend’s background. This way questions can be tailored specifically to their experiences. There are general questions to start the interview, and some examples are provided in Appendix E. More innovative and specific questions for the Geo-Legend are recommended. The question list could include 12-15 questions to achieve the length requirement of the article. Normally, authors submit their list of questions to the Geo-Legend prior to the interview to allow him/her time to review the questions and develop responses.

We recommend using a voice recorder to record the interview. The recorder allows you to focus on the interview (asking questions and conversing with the Geo-Legend) and the write-up can be performed afterwards. In addition, please take some pictures with the Geo-Legend. The photos can be used for publication in GEOSTRATA magazine.

5. Develop 1st Draft: The first draft consists of a brief biographical introduction followed by the transcript of the interview. More information on the article format can be found at the SLC Google-Drive Share folder. You are expected to complete a thorough internal review and revision process before proceeding to the next Step. A polished draft positivity reflects your home institution to outsides audiences. Note: the article for publishing in GEOSTRATA should be **2,000-2,400** words.

6. If your article is long, appropriate deletion should be conducted to fit the article words requirement. However, you can keep the full length of the interview article which can be uploaded to Geo-Institute website, too.
7. **Send draft to Geo-Legends Committee Chair**: The Geo-Legends Committee Chair reviews the draft to check for quality, e.g., grammar, syntax, etc., and provide general comments. This step may require further revision of the draft based on feedback from the Geo-Legends Committee.

8. **Send draft to Geo-Legend**: After addressing the Geo-Legend Committee comments, you can email the article to the Geo-Legend for them to verify its accuracy. This step may require further revision of the draft based on feedback from the Geo-Legend.

9. **Send draft to Dr. Withiam (jlwithiam@dappolonia.com)**: Send your draft article to Jim Withiam who will oversee editorial review of the draft and final versions of your article.

10. **Submit final draft and copyright transfer agreement**: Appendix F provides the copyright transfer agreement.
Appendix A: Potential Geo-Legends

**California**
1. Richard Goodman, (Professor, U.C. Berkeley)
2. Jim Kleinfelder (founder of Kleinfelder) Email: JHKAZ@aol.com
3. Ed Rinne (Dame & Moore)

**Florida**
1. Dr. Jean-Pierre Giroud, (Chairman Emeritus of GeoSyntec, Florida) Email: jpg@jpgiroud.com. (Agreed to be interviewed)
2. Prof. Milton Harr, (Emeritus Purdue University) lives in Floridan most of year)
3. Dr. Don Deere, (Professor, U. Illinois)

**Georgia**
1. Dr. Bill Brumund, Principal, (Golder Associates)
2. Dr. Wayne Clough, email: wayne.clough@ce.gatech.edu (a past Secretary of Smithsonian).

**Indiana**
Dr. Terry West (Professor at Purdue University)

**Illinois**
1. Dr. Edward Cording, (Professor Emeritus, U. Illinois)
2. Dr. Raymond J. Krizek, (Professor, Northwestern University)

**Maryland**

**Massachusetts**
1. Dr. John T. Christian, (Professor, MIT; Stone and Webster Vice-President), email: itchrist36@comcast.net.
2. Dr. John R. Hall, Jr., (Practitioner with D’Appolonia and Stone & Webster, Adjunct Professor WPI)
3. Donald T. Goldberg, (Founding Principal, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.)

**Michigan**

**New York**
1. Mel Esrig, (Cornell University; Principal, Woodward-Clyde Consultants, NY area)

**Ohio**

Tien H. Wu, (Professor, Ohio State), email: wu.26@osu.edu

**Pennsylvania**

1. Anthony M. DiGioia, JR., (DiGioia, Gray & Associates; co-founder of GAI Consultants; Pittsburgh consultant), email: Tony@DiGioiaGray.com
2. Richard E. Gray, (DiGioia, Gray & Associates; co-founder of GAI Consultants, Pittsburgh-based practitioner), email: Dick@DiGioiaGray.com

**Texas**

1. Hudson Matlock, (Professor, U. Texas)
2. Roy Olson, (Professor, U. Illinois, U. Texas)
3. Dr. David Daniel, (Current President of UT-Dallas, former Prof. at Illinois and Texas), email: david.daniel@utdallas.edu.

**Utah**

T. Leslie Youd, (USGS, Professor, BYU)

**Washington DC**

Delon Hampton, (founder, Delon Hampton and Associates), email: drhampton@delonhampton.com.

**Foreign Legends**

1. Prof. Mike Jamiolkowski, (Emeritus Technical University of Torino, Italy), email: m.jamiolkowski@studiogeotecnico.it
2. Prof. Andrew Schofield, (Emeritus Cambridge University)
3. Francois Schlosser (France)
4. Prof. Norbert Morgenstern, (Emeritus University of Alberta, Canada), email: norbert.morgenstern@ualberta.ca
Appendix B: Interviewed Geo-Legends

1. Prof. T. William Lambe
2. Dr. John H. Schmertmann
3. Mr. Clyde N. Baker
4. Prof. Charles C. Ladd
5. Prof. John B. Burland
6. Prof. Robert D. Holtz
7. Jim Monsees
8. Dr. William Marcusson
9. Dr. Suzanne Lacasse
10. Prof. Izzat M. Idriss
11. Prof. Edward Kavazanjian
12. Prof. Robert Koerner
13. Prof. Jim Mitchell
14. Prof. Carlos Santamarina
15. Prof. Kenneth H. Stokoe
16. Mr. George Tamaro
17. Prof. Michael Duncan
18. Dr. Harry Poulos
19. Prof. Donald Gray
20. Mr. Joseph Welsh
21. Prof. Michael Duncan
22. Prof. Harry Poulos
23. Prof. Richard Woods
24. Prof. Thomas O'Rourke
25. Mr. Roy Hunt
26. Prof. Kenji Ishihara
27. Prof. Paul W. Mayne
Appendix C: Interviews in Progress

1. Mr. John Dunnicliff
2. Mr. Jeff Keaton
3. ISSMGE Leaders (Roger Frank, Antonio Gens, Neil Taylor, Jean-Louis Briaud)
Appendix D: Refuse To Be Interviewed

1. Dr. Don Murff
Appendix E: Samples of general interview questions

- How did you first discover your interest in geotechnical (or civil) engineering?
- How important is a graduate degree to become a geotechnical engineer?
- Which lessons did you learn as a student that most directly influenced your success?
- Do you believe that today’s universities place enough emphasis on fundamental ideas?
- What do you consider to be your best career achievements?
- Do engineers depend too much on technology today?
- Throughout your entire career, which project did you find most challenging?
- What do you recognize as the biggest shortcoming or greatest current need in geotechnical practice?
- What do you see for the future of geotechnical engineering? And what advice would you give to a young engineer in this field?
- If you had to do it all over again, what would you change (or keep the same)?
- What advice do you have for young geotechnical engineers?
- What do you think was the best accomplishment made by geotechnical engineers the last 40 years?
- A common theme in your publications and especially your book, Soil Strength and Slope Stability, is the importance of case studies. Why do you feel they are so important in geotechnical engineering?
- Based on your experiences from New Orleans Regional Hurricane Protection Projects and several earthquake reconnaissance missions, which part do you think our geotechnical engineer did a great job for mitigation of extreme events, and which part we need to improve on?
- Have you ever had a moment of failure in your professional life and how did you handle it?
- What are some upcoming research areas for geotechnical engineering?
- Which part of geotechnical engineering do you think we need to improve on?

You do not have to follow all the questions as the Appendix E, more innovative and specific questions for the geolegend are recommended. The question list could include 12-15 questions to achieve the length requirement of the article.