The 2006 Distinguished Lecturer:

Michele B. Jamiolkowski, Ph.D.
Professor & Director of Soil Mechanics
Geotechnical Engineering
Technical University of Torino

Michele B. Jamiolkowski has been a Professor of Geotechnical Engineering at the Technical University of Torino, Italy since 1969. Both an academic and a practitioner, he has also been chairman of the Studio Geotecnico Italiano, an engineering company in Milano, since 1964. His primary professional interests include the mechanical behavior of soils, laboratory and in situ testing, soil dynamics, bearing capacity and settlements of shallow foundations, and soil improvement. Professor Jamiolkowski has authored more than 250 scientific and technical publications. He is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Geomechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and Associate International Editor of the Soil and Rock International Journal.

Professor Jamiolkowski’s most recent professional assignments have been to serve as a geotechnical consultant on the following projects: the Suspension Bridge over Messina Straits (Messina Straits Ltd., 1985-present); the Venice Defense System against High Water MOSE (Consorzio Venezia Nuova and Technical Engineering, 2003-present); the LNG Terminal in Brindisi (Tecnimont Engineering, 2004-present); and the restoration and strengthening of the Bell Tower at San Marco Square in Venice (Consorzio Venezia Buova, 2004-present). Prior to the aforementioned projects, Professor Jamiolkowski was the Chairman of the International Committee for the Safeguard of the Leaning Tower of Pisa from 1990-2001. In addition to his professional activities, he has also been involved in a number of professional societies, serving as President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering from 1994 through 1997.

Over the course of his career, Professor Jamiolkowski has been invited to deliver a number of significant lectures throughout the world, at both universities and at conferences. His university lectures include: in 1994, the John Buchanan Lecturer at Texas A&M University; in 1998, the Schiffman Lecture at Cornell University; and in 2000, the George Hendris Memorial Lecturer at the University of Western Australia, Perth. He has also delivered lectures at a number of conferences including: in 1986, the James Forrest Lecture to the Institution of Civil Engineers in London, UK; in 2002, the Kersten Lecture at the 50th Annual Geotechnical Engineering Conference at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis; and in 2004, the Keynote Lecturer at the Skempton Conference at the Imperial College, London, UK.

Professor Jamiolkowski is the recipient of the 2001 Karl Terzaghi Award given by the American Society of Civil Engineers. He recently received the 2005 Award from the Japanese Geotechnical Society (JGS) for the best 2003 JGS paper. He has been an Honorable International Member of JGS since 1998. In addition to his many accolades, Professor Jamiolkowski was elected as a Foreign Associate to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering in 2005.

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“Geotechnical Considerations: The Suspension Bridge Over Messina Straits”

Tuesday, March 28, 4:00 p.m.
Texas Exes Alumni Center
University of Texas at Austin
2110 San Jacinto

Reception immediately following the lecture
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 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 lifelong 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 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 in 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.