



Vancouver Geotechnical Society

A Local Section of the Canadian Geotechnical Society

Visit : www.v-g-s.ca

2012-2013 Executive Committee:

Chair	- Andrea Lougheed, Thurber	604-684-4384
Past-Chair	- Jason Pellett, EBA	604-685-0275
Program Director	- Ali Amini, NAGL	604-984-0759
Treasurer	- (Kumar) S. Sriskandakumar, BGC	604-684-5900
Secretary	- Ryan Mills, EBA	604-685-0275
Registrar	- Chris Longley, Stantec	604-436-3014
Web Manager	- Marc Bossé, Thurber	604 684 4384
CGS Director	- Jason Pellett, EBA	604-709-4639

NOTICE OF UPCOMING DINNER PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 08, 2013

SUBJECT: Paleoseismology; Has it Reduced Seismic Hazards, and if not, How Do We Change Course?

SPEAKER: Dr. James McCalpin
GEO-HAZ Consulting, Inc.



James McCalpin has been named the 2013 Jahns Distinguished Lecturer. The Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) and the Engineering Geology Division of the Geological Society of America (GSA) jointly established the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lectureship in 1988 to commemorate Jahns and to promote student awareness of engineering geology through a series of lectures offered at various locations around the country. Richard H. Jahns (1915 – 1983) was an engineering geologist who had a diverse and distinguished career in academia, consulting and government.

J.P. McCalpin earned his BA in Geology from University of Texas ('72) and MS from University of Colorado ('75), specializing in geomorphology, Quaternary geology, and rock climbing. He did postgraduate work at University of Alaska, which led to employment in the Alaska Branch of USGS in 1976, and later the Branch of Western Environmental Geology (Menlo Park) in 1977, where he was first introduced to the “new field” of paleoseismology. In 1977 he imported these paleoseismic methods to Colorado and its Rio Grande rift, while mapping and trenching the Sangre de Cristo fault for his PhD at the Colorado School of Mines. After graduation he served as County Geologist for Jefferson County, Colorado in 1982, and then joined the faculty at Utah State University where he taught geomorphology and engineering geology from 1982-1991.

In 1991 he left academia and founded GEO-HAZ Consulting, devoted to applied geological consulting for geologic hazards, primarily seismic and landslide hazards. A related project was publication of the reference book Paleoseismology in 1996, in collaboration with many early US paleoseismologists. The book won the AEG Holdredge Award in 1999 and the GSA Burwell Award in 2000, and is now in its 2nd edition (in English, 2009; in Russian, 2012). In his 20+ years at GEO-HAZ Dr. McCalpin has completed 140 geologic hazard projects in 40 countries, analyzing seismic and other hazards to developments ranging from residential subdivisions to ski areas, from dams to nuclear power plants. Since 2001 he has taught a summer field course in neotectonics and paleoseismology, using the only permanent paleoseismic teaching trench in North America. He enjoys collaborating with international earthquake scientists, and especially with their newer generation of students interested in geologic hazards and in geo-constraints to sustainability and quality of life.

CONTENT:

Paleoseismology arose as a new field of study from nuclear power plant studies in the USA in the late 1960s. This talk covers the “invention” of paleoseismic trenching; the slow acceptance of paleoseismology by seismologists; the role it now plays in Seismic Hazard Assessment; and how paleoseismology can help reduce worldwide earthquake deaths, which have risen since the 1970s. The talk is based on my 35 years experience in paleoseismology, starting with USGS in Menlo Park and my first paleoseismic trench in 1977, through about a zillion trenches in the USA and many countries overseas, and several high-profile Seismic Hazard Analyses (Yucca Mountain, Los Alamos, South Africa).

DETAILS

Executive Inn, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby, BC V5C 3Y6 (Phone: 604-298-2010)

Social Hour: 5:30 to 6:30 pm (drinks available at the hotel bar)

Technical Presentation: 6:30 to 7:45 pm

Dinner: 7:45 pm (\$30 will be charged for dinner)

RSVP for Dinner: Dinner reservation to ali.amini@shaw.ca by Tuesday, May 07, 2013 or register at the door with Chris Longley.

No reservation is required for attending the presentation.