



UBC Geological Engineering



THE
UBC GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT CLUB
AND THE
VANCOUVER GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY
ARE PROUD TO PRESENT



**THE GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING 2008
DISTINGUISHED LECTURE**

**“The Comforts of Ignorance and
the Benefits of Arrogance
Lessons of the Failure Kind for the Geopractitioner”**

by

Dr. Edmund Medley



**(2009 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer
in Engineering Geology)**

Wednesday, November 19th, 2008 @ 7:00 pm
(refreshments and mingling from 6:00 to 7:00pm)

Room 1005, Forest Science Centre,
2424 Main Mall
University of British Columbia

Public lecture, all are welcome



**Vancouver Geotechnical
Society**
A local section of the
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The Talk: Ignorance and arrogance are all too common in the design professions. It is comforting to not know what one does not know. And, there are benefits to being arrogant: why waste time on having a colleague check your work if you know what you are doing? Why go through the pain of further education or professional development? Why should engineering geologists talk to geotechnical engineers (and vice versa)? After all: “I know enough geowhatever to get by.” But ignorance leads to blissful mistakes and arrogance results in occasional spectacular, famous and expensive failures. In this lecture a few lessons are offered, particularly to the engineering geologist/geotechnical engineer/environmental scientist who thinks he/she knows it all.

The Speaker: Dr. Medley is a Senior Consultant in the Oakland, California office of Geosyntec Consultants, an international consultancy renown for innovative solutions to geoengineering and environmental problems. He is also a graduate of the Univ. of British Columbia's Geological Engineering Program (1978) and was named the 2009 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer in Engineering Geology, by the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG) and the Engineering Geology Division of the Geological Society of America (GSA).

Dr. Medley started work in the Applied Earth Sciences in 1969, and now has over 30 years of unusually varied international experience in geotechnical and geological engineering consulting, mineral exploration prospecting, failure investigation, project management, litigation testifying, academic research, teaching, and lecturing. He has an international reputation for his pioneering research into the engineering and geological characterization of bimrocks (block-in-matrix rocks), complex geological mixtures of rock and soil such as melanges, fault rocks, weathered rocks, tills, and colluvium. (Most of his professional contributions are freely available at <http://bimrocks.geoengineer.org>.)

Dr. Medley also has experience evaluating geotechnical/geological engineering vulnerabilities and the causes of civil engineering failures, and has provided testimony for attorneys, insurance companies, contractors, and municipal clients. Projects include investigation of major landslides, rockfall hazards, expansive/collapsing soils, tunnel failures, coastal erosion, sinkholes and other ground movements in California, Nevada, District of Columbia; Hawaii, Guam, and Papua New Guinea. Dr. Medley has authored/co-authored about 50 professional contributions, and presented well over 150 professional and academic lectures, Short Courses and MCLE Credit courses. He is licensed as an engineer and geologist in the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom.





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